

White Westinghouse
ROOM AIR CONDITIONERS

- Super quiet, super cooling
- Heavy-duty compressor with five-year guarantee
- 11-position thermostat
- Power sweep
- Multi-spread fan

BADER AL MULLA & SONS CO. W.L.L.
Sole Street 264 (5th Floor), West Tower, Doha 1212
Fax: 264 5111, 264 5112, 264 5113, 264 5114, 264 5115
Sole Agent: 264 5115, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia 111 274

ARAB TIMES

JAHLA BRANCH
is pleased to serve you in the afternoon, from
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Saturdays,
Mondays & Wednesdays
Tel: 4774855

NO. 7874 SUNDAY, MAY 20, 1990/SHAWWAL 25, 1410 AH 24 PAGES 150 FILLS

Powers clinch accords



Baker points at reporters during the news conference (Regular wirephoto)

Success of summit assured: Shevardnadze

MOSCOW, May 19, (Agencies): The United States and the Soviet Union clinched a series of important disarmament accords today including agreement on the major points of a treaty to limit long-range nuclear arms.

Secretary of State James Baker told a news conference after four days of talks with Soviet leaders that they had reached substantive agreement on a strategic arms reduction treaty (Start), a chemical weapons accord and two nuclear testing treaties.

Baker made it clear, however, that President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will not be able to sign the strategic arms reduction treaty, or Start accord, when they meet May 30 to June 3.

Baker also announced major progress on a separate agreement that would virtually eliminate the two superpowers' stockpiles of chemical weapons, saying Bush and Gorbachev would likely sign the treaty in Washington.

That accord would ban all production, mandate immediate destruction of 80 per cent of existing chemical weapons and require the destruction of all but two per cent within eight years.

Baker said he and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had reached agreement on protocols for limiting nuclear tests, which he said would be signed as well as the superpower summit.



Vassiliou in Kuwait

Cypriot President Georges Vassiliou arrived in Kuwait on Saturday on a 2-day visit for talks on economic co-operation and Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, officials said.

HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, along with HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and senior government officials, welcomed Vassiliou at Kuwait international airport.

Vassiliou was accompanied by Foreign Minister George Symon and other officials. Kuwaiti officials said that discussions between Vassiliou and the Amir would focus on possible Kuwaiti economic aid and means of expanding trade between Cyprus and Kuwait.

Jewish state assures Egypt Israel won't strike first

Focus on peace-making bids with Arabs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 19, (Agencies): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman said today that Israel sought to "reach out and change its relationship" with Arab countries and confirmed the government had a policy against starting any wars.

But spokesman Avi Pazner declined to deny or confirm reports today from Cairo that Israel had recently assured Egypt it would never launch a first strike against a neighbour Arab state.

The reports came as Israel's right-wing leaders appeared to be

shifting their focus on peace efforts from moving toward dialogue with Palestinians to peace-making attempts with Arab countries.

Egypt is the only Arab country to have a peace treaty with the Jewish state which was signed in March 1979. Other Arab states, notably, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, have been at war with Israel since the country was established in 1948.

Pazner, reached by telephone, said, "It is our longstanding policy for the last 42 years, since Israel's founding, never to attack an Arab state."

"I think our discussions have resulted in some real accomplishments and the progress we have made here makes me optimistic that we will have a productive summit in Washington," Baker said.

Bush and Gorbachev set a goal at their last meeting in Malta in December of reaching a Start agreement in time for their Washington summit beginning on May 30.

Shevardnadze told a news conference immediately after Baker's that the success of Gorbachev's visit to the United States was now assured.

"It is our intention now that during the summit some useful agreements will be signed and some major accords will be made public," he said.

"The core will be a statement by the two presidents that agreement has been reached on the radical reduction of nuclear arms."

He said the actual treaty should be ready for signature by the end of the year but in the US city of Houston Bush told reporters that the Soviet Union had to make more concessions to ensure the treaty could be signed.

"We want the Gorbachev summit to be a successful one," he said. "It is going to take some time on the Soviet side in my view."

The two sides had settled many disputed issues in connection with Start, particularly limits on air- and sea-launched cruise missiles, but some outstanding questions still had to be resolved.

"On Start, our goal has been to reach agreement on the major substantive issues by the summit and we are now in a position to do so," he said.

The superpowers had compromised on two of the "most vexing problems" in Start, the air-launched and sea-launched cruise missiles.

Baker said Moscow and Washington had also achieved a "trailblazing agreement" on chemical weapons under which both sides would cease production immediately and destroy 80 per cent of their stocks over a number of years.

On sea-launched missiles, the two sides had agreed to a binding limit of 600 each — to be noted in a politically-binding declaration as an annex to the agreement.

The United States now has only about 300 missiles of this kind and never planned to build more than about 760 so the limit of 600 would give Washington the right to deploy more than it intended.

On air-launched missiles, the United States accepted the range limit of 600 km (375 miles) sought by Moscow instead of the 800 km (500 miles) it had wanted.

The State Department urged Congress yesterday to allow Bush to decide whether to impose sanctions against nations that use chemical and biological weapons in violation of international law.

Baker said Moscow and Washington had also achieved a "trailblazing agreement" on chemical weapons under which both sides would cease production immediately and destroy 80 per cent of their stocks over a number of years.

On sea-launched missiles, the two sides had agreed to a binding limit of 600 each — to be noted in a politically-binding declaration as an annex to the agreement.

The United States now has only about 300 missiles of this kind and never planned to build more than about 760 so the limit of 600 would give Washington the right to deploy more than it intended.

On air-launched missiles, the United States accepted the range limit of 600 km (375 miles) sought by Moscow instead of the 800 km (500 miles) it had wanted.

The State Department urged Congress yesterday to allow Bush to decide whether to impose sanctions against nations that use chemical and biological weapons in violation of international law.

Baker said Moscow and Washington had also achieved a "trailblazing agreement" on chemical weapons under which both sides would cease production immediately and destroy 80 per cent of their stocks over a number of years.

On sea-launched missiles, the two sides had agreed to a binding limit of 600 each — to be noted in a politically-binding declaration as an annex to the agreement.

The United States now has only about 300 missiles of this kind and never planned to build more than about 760 so the limit of 600 would give Washington the right to deploy more than it intended.

On air-launched missiles, the United States accepted the range limit of 600 km (375 miles) sought by Moscow instead of the 800 km (500 miles) it had wanted.

The State Department urged Congress yesterday to allow Bush to decide whether to impose sanctions against nations that use chemical and biological weapons in violation of international law.

Baker said Moscow and Washington had also achieved a "trailblazing agreement" on chemical weapons under which both sides would cease production immediately and destroy 80 per cent of their stocks over a number of years.

Benazir rules out war

Meeting with US envoys in Pakistan

SANAA, May 19, (Agencies): Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived today on the fifth stop of a tour aimed at gathering support for her country in a dispute with India over the troubled Kashmir province.

Bhutto flew in from Jordan where she told a news conference that Pakistan will not take military action against India over Kashmir province.

"The situation in Indian-held Kashmir is one of great pain and tragedy. A reign of terror has been unleashed on men, women and children," Bhutto said on arrival in Sanaa.

She was welcomed at the airport by North Yemeni Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdulghani.

Yemeni officials said Bhutto would hold talks first with prime minister and later with President Col Ali Abdullah Saleh.

"The problem of Kashmir is rooted in the history and denial of the right of self-determination ..."

Bhutto said.

She said she would have discussions with North Yemeni leaders on Kashmir, regional and bilateral issues and the two countries' growing

co-operation and friendship.

She expressed hope that unification between South and North Yemen would be completed soon.

There also were reports that she may meet with two envoys of US President George Bush while in Sanaa.

The US embassy in Islamabad said Deputy National Security Advisor Robert Gates and John Kelly, Undersecretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, will try to see her in North Yemen before flying to Pakistan.

But asked about these reports while she was in Amman, Bhutto said only that she would meet Kelly on her return home because his schedule conflicted with hers. She made no mention of Gates.

She berated New Delhi for increasing tension by deploying troops on the Indo-Pakistan border, and criticised India's refusal to enter into peace talks with Pakistan.

"We do not seek a military confrontation and we are prepared to seek means and ways to prevent a military confrontation with India," Bhutto told a news conference before departing for Sanaa.

"We have suggested to the Indian government a redeployment of troops because we are not interested in building up any tension like other parties," the prime minister said in Amman.

"We had two earlier conflicts with India on Kashmir and these two conflicts did not lead to any solution. Therefore a third conflict will not lead to any solution either."

"Pakistan is in a position of defending itself (against any Indian attack)," Bhutto told reporters.

"But we believe peace is a cause for which the governments of India and Pakistan must dedicate themselves."

"We have suggested to the Indian government a redeployment of troops because we are not interested in building up any tension like other parties," the prime minister said in Amman.

"We had two earlier conflicts with India on Kashmir and these two conflicts did not lead to any solution. Therefore a third conflict will not lead to any solution either."

"Pakistan is in a position of defending itself (against any Indian attack)," Bhutto told reporters.

"But we believe peace is a cause for which the governments of India and Pakistan must dedicate themselves."

"We have suggested to the Indian government a redeployment of troops because we are not interested in building up any tension like other parties," the prime minister said in Amman.

"We had two earlier conflicts with India on Kashmir and these two conflicts did not lead to any solution. Therefore a third conflict will not lead to any solution either."

"Pakistan is in a position of defending itself (against any Indian attack)," Bhutto told reporters.

Soviets stuck in space

Spacecraft damaged

Two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet Union's orbiting Mir space station have been without a reliable means of returning to earth since February, an industry journal reported on Friday.

Picture shows Mir space station in orbit. (Regular wirephoto) (Details Page 5)

Two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet Union's orbiting Mir space station have been without a reliable means of returning to earth since February, an industry journal reported on Friday.

Picture shows Mir space station in orbit. (Regular wirephoto) (Details Page 5)

Two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet Union's orbiting Mir space station have been without a reliable means of returning to earth since February, an industry journal reported on Friday.

Picture shows Mir space station in orbit. (Regular wirephoto) (Details Page 5)

Two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet Union's orbiting Mir space station have been without a reliable means of returning to earth since February, an industry journal reported on Friday.

Picture shows Mir space station in orbit. (Regular wirephoto) (Details Page 5)

Two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet Union's orbiting Mir space station have been without a reliable means of returning to earth since February, an industry journal reported on Friday.

Picture shows Mir space station in orbit. (Regular wirephoto) (Details Page 5)

Two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet Union's orbiting Mir space station have been without a reliable means of returning to earth since February, an industry journal reported on Friday.

Picture shows Mir space station in orbit. (Regular wirephoto) (Details Page 5)

Two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet Union's orbiting Mir space station have been without a reliable means of returning to earth since February, an industry journal reported on Friday.

Picture shows Mir space station in orbit. (Regular wirephoto) (Details Page 5)

Two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet Union's orbiting Mir space station have been without a reliable means of returning to earth since February, an industry journal reported on Friday.

Picture shows Mir space station in orbit. (Regular wirephoto) (Details Page 5)

Two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet Union's orbiting Mir space station have been without a reliable means of returning to earth since February, an industry journal reported on Friday.

Picture shows Mir space station in orbit. (Regular wirephoto) (Details Page 5)

5 Kuwaitis held Drug bust

KUWAIT, May 19, (Kuna): Kuwaiti criminal investigation officers arrested five Kuwaitis involved in an international drug ring based in Arab countries for drug trafficking, the Interior Ministry announced today.

The public relations department in the Ministry of Interior said the criminals were arrested in possession of 18 thousand narcotic pills and 70 kilograms of hashish.

The investigators pointed out that the ring has agents in Kuwait to sell the drugs delivered by trucks.

A middleman was caught after being put under surveillance for two months where his contacts were identified and arrested with three and a half kilograms of hashish.

Security officers then arrested the middleman who turned out to be heading a drug operation by international phone calls in agreement with a network consisting of criminals who have previous records as well as being expelled from Kuwait.

Philippines Focus

—Page 2—

Airplane returns: A Kuwaiti airplane returned to Cairo international airport fifteen minutes after taking off due to a medical emergency on board the plane, it was announced in Cairo on Saturday.

The Middle East News Agency (MENA), said a heart attack struck an Egyptian passenger, named Nashed Adel, on board the 747-Boeing plane. A doctor on the plane advised the captain to fly back to Cairo as the condition of the patient does not allow him to continue the flight. (Kuna)

22 killed in train collision: A loaded freight train ploughed into the back of a slow-moving passenger train on a stretch of line overlooking the Black Sea yesterday, hurling a carriage over a cliff into the sea and killing as many as 22 people.

Police put the death toll at nine with 32 injured. But the head doctor at the hospital in the nearby town of Gagra said 22 were killed and at least 90 hurt. (Reuters)

Iran-Saudi talks on Haj: Iran and Saudi Arabia have held direct talks on the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca which Tehran has boycotted since bloody riots in 1987. Gulf-based diplomats said yesterday.

They said Iran's First Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Beharati spent last Monday and Tuesday in Riyadh, meeting Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal in the first reported direct contact since the two states cut diplomatic ties in 1988. (Reuters)

Foreign teachers reduced: Oman is scurrying down on the foreign teacher force in the Sultanate by five per cent as it develops its indigenous teaching force, Education Department officials said yesterday.

Abdullah Rashidi, personnel director at the department, reported the cutdown as 18,000 foreign teachers were expected to leave for the annual summer vacation.

CID men nab airport cop on bribes charge

SECURITY personnel of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) apprehended a policeman (corporal) identified as F.M.A. working at Kuwait International Airport on charges of accepting bribes from violators of the residence permits in return for stamping their passports to leave the country without having paid their fines.

According to police sources, in some instances exceeded KD1,000 and the policeman is alleged to have been taking KD300 each from violators to facilitate their leaving the country without paying the legal fine.



Opening concert

Rolling Stones lead singer Mick Jagger belts out a song during the opening concert of the Urban Jungla European Tour 1990, at Rotterdam's Feyenoord Stadium on Friday.



Pleads not guilty

Christian Brando, 32-year-old son of actor Marlon Brando, pleaded not guilty in a packed courtroom on Friday to the murder of his half sister's boyfriend in a shooting described by a defence lawyer as a tragic accident.

Brando, who could be sentenced to 25-years-to-life imprisonment if found guilty of the murder of Dag Drollet, was also charged with possessing a machine-gun.

Picture shows Brando conferring with his attorney in Los Angeles prior to his arraignment on murder charges.

Details Page 3

Brando, who could be sentenced to 25-years-to-life imprisonment if found guilty of the murder of Dag Drollet, was also charged with possessing a machine-gun.

Picture shows Brando conferring with his attorney in Los Angeles prior to his arraignment on murder charges.

Details Page 3

Brando, who could be sentenced to 25-years-to-life imprisonment if found guilty of the murder of Dag Drollet, was also charged with possessing a machine-gun.

Picture shows Brando conferring with his attorney in Los Angeles prior to his arraignment on murder charges.

Details Page 3

Brando, who could be sentenced to 25-years-to-life imprisonment if found guilty of the murder of Dag Drollet, was also charged with possessing a machine-gun.

Picture shows Brando conferring with his attorney in Los Angeles prior to his arraignment on murder charges.

Details Page 3

Brando, who could be sentenced to 25-years-to-life imprisonment if found guilty of the murder of Dag Drollet, was also charged with possessing a machine-gun.

Picture shows Brando conferring with his attorney in Los Angeles prior to his arraignment on murder charges.

Actress Jill Ireland dies

LOS ANGELES, May 19, (Reuters): British-born actress Jill Ireland, who wrote two books on her six-year battle with breast cancer and the help she received in coping with the disease from her husband Charles Bronson, died yesterday, close friends said. She was 53.

Bronson, their children and Ireland's mother were at her bedside when she died at her home in the film star colony of Malibu.

(Details Page 3)

Ceausescu graves discovered

BUCHAREST, May 19, (Reuters): Executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena are buried under scruffy wooden crosses about 20 metres (yards) apart in a Bucharest graveyard.

Reporters found the graves today at the Ghencea cemetery in Western Bucharest after talking to frightened graveyard workers.

Government officials told reporters the cemetery was the final resting place of the Ceausescus, executed by firing squad on Dec 25 and buried in secret under false names five days later for fear that their graves would be desecrated.

"Col (R) Popa Dan 1920-1989" is the sole inscription on the cross marking the grave of the despised dictator, overthrown on Dec 22.

A woman employee of the cemetery, who asked to remain anonymous, told Reuters: "On Dec 30 a car with two coffins and an army general and several senior officers came. The gravediggers have been afraid to talk about that job."



Ghencea civil cemetery in Bucharest, marked with the name of Popa Dan, is in fact the burial site of Ceausescu. (Regular wirephoto)

lined avenue, an identical wooden cross bears the inscription: "Col (R) Enescu-Vasile 1921-1989."

A woman employee of the cemetery, who asked to remain anonymous, told Reuters: "On Dec 30 a car with two coffins and an army general and several senior officers came. The gravediggers have been afraid to talk about that job."

Rubaiee, Buarki freed

KUWAIT, May 19, (Agencies): An official Interior Ministry source told Kuna today that the two detainees Dr Ahmad Al Rubaiee and Ali Buarki were temporarily released on KD300 bail.

20 more pull out of polls

KUWAIT, May 19, (Kuna): Another 20 candidates for Kuwait National Council elections today withdrew, leaving 504 contestants running for the interim assembly.

Elections for the four year council, which was ordered by HH the Amir last month to consider the future of democracy in Kuwait, are scheduled on June 10. Withdrawals deadline is June 6.

50 deputies are to be elected and 25 will be appointed by HH the Amir.

THE Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour has begun implementing a new system to recruit labour. Businessmen are now required to submit a bank guarantee of KD250 for each worker they hire. This would require a company employing 1,000 workers to submit a guarantee of a quarter million Kuwaiti dinars. (the deposit) would be frozen for three years.

This is certainly costly for the companies. If the company does not mortgage assets or submit a guarantee for a similar sum, the local banking system does not allow for the issuance of guarantees for a three-year period.

The ministry says the cash deposit is a security protecting the rights of labourers in case of a dispute with the employer. Indeed, this is a good measure. But will a company have a dispute with all its 1,000 workers at the same time?

It is unlikely that a company would be in dispute with all its workers at the same time. There may be a dispute between 10 or 20 workers and the company management. If the company cannot be in dispute with all its workers at the same time, it would be better if the ministry can fix the security deposit between KD2,000 and KD5,000.

The KD250 deposit for each worker is certainly a big sum and burdens the companies. We hope the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour would review this decision. He is known as a man who heeds the words of reason.

Zahed Matar



Fruity welcome

A Vietnamese woman refugee offers a native Philippine fruit to Sergio Vieira de Mello (right), regional head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for Asia and Oceania, during his visit at a refugee centre in Batasan

province, west of Manila after a two day conference in Manila. The conference was deadlocked over the issue of the refugees' forcible repatriation to Vietnam. (Reuters wirephoto)

US troops in Manila to get danger pay

WASHINGTON, May 19. (Reuters): Nearly 15,000 American troops and hundreds of US civilian workers in the Philippines will receive danger pay increases immediately, the Department of Defence said today.

The increases, which follow threats by communist guerrillas against Americans in that country, represent an additional 15 per cent of basic salary for US civilian employees and \$110 per month for all military personnel.

Two US airmen were shot to death in the Philippines last Sunday, one day before US and Philippine negotiators opened exploratory talks on the future of Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Navy Base.

No group claimed responsibility, but the communist New People's Army has vowed to increase attacks against Americans in an attempt to force the United States to pull its military forces out of the Philippines.

"The Department of Defence has designated the Philippines as an area of imminent danger for special pay purposes because of the current unstable conditions," the Pentagon said in a brief statement.

There are 14,745 military personnel and 1,355 US civilians working for the Pentagon in the Philippines.

15 bodies exhumed

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines, May 19. (UPI): Soldiers exhumed the bodies of 15 people believed to have been suspected government informers executed by communist rebels, the military said today.

Brig. Gen. Hermogenes Peralta, a military regional commander, said the 15 bodies were dug up yesterday from mass graves outside Tagaytay village, 550 miles (880 km) south of Manila.

Peralta told reporters in his headquarters in nearby Cagayan de Oro city that a captured communist rebel, who served as the secretary of the "Kagayao" court, that convicted the victims, led the soldiers to the mass graves.

Manila warns of security vacuum

Communists condemn 'traitorous moves'

MANILA, May 19. (UPI): Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos warned today an immediate US military withdrawal from the Philippines will create a security vacuum which could spark a big power rivalry in Southeast Asia.

Ramos made the remarks a day after Manila and Washington ended five days of talks on the bases to settle a compensation dispute and agreed to hold further discussions for a new treaty to cover the facilities, whose lease expires on Sept 16, 1991.

The chief US negotiator, Richard Armitage, said although the compensation dispute has been settled, the future of the giant Clark Air

Base, Subic Bay Naval Station and four smaller facilities cannot be sustained "simply on the basis of money."

"There are still pressure points in Southeast Asia and these could provide extra-regional powers the opportunity to exploit the strategic void," Ramos said in his speech before graduates of the command and general staff college at the army headquarters.

"Any adventurist posture by the greater powers will only strain our capability to advance and defend our national security, especially in the short term," he said.

Chief US negotiator departed for Tokyo after the end of the first round of the talks.

The two panels recessed indefinitely but spokesmen said the second round of discussions would focus on a treaty to replace the pact.

Earlier yesterday, masked men in a taxi fired rifle grenades at the US-run Thomas Jefferson Library in Manila's financial district, police and US officials said. No casualties were reported.

Police also announced the arrest of an alleged member of the communist guerrilla hit squad suspected in the killing Sunday of two US servicemen on the eve of the bases talks.

In closing remarks, Armitage expressed disappointment that the compensation issue dominated the initial talks.

He said his frustration stemmed from the "inappropriateness of constructing a renewed strategic relationship between our two peoples simply on the basis of money."

Philippine negotiators had threatened to scuttle the talks unless Washington settled a \$222 million shortfall in the annual aid compensation of \$461 million.

Ramos said the closure of the bases will force member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to double their defence spending "to make up for the vacuum left by the Americans."

Ramos advocated for a "reasonable transition period" for the bases to pull out, but did not specify how the big powers would take advantage of the security situation.

The defence secretary also called on Asean — the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore and Brunei — to forge a regional defence alliance based on a self-reliant defence industry to prepare for a US withdrawal in the future.

Asean has refused a political role, preferring to concentrate on being an economic and social organisation.



Plane crash

A twin-engine commuter plane spun out of control shortly after takeoff and crashed into a house near Manila airport on Friday, killing all 21 people aboard and a family of four on the ground, authorities said.

Investigators said initial findings showed that the right engine of the Beechcraft King aircraft failed, and that the plane never gained more than 121 metres (400 feet) altitude before plunging into the bedroom of the house in

the Manila suburb of Paranaque, about one km (a half mile) south of the airport.

The dead included a Japanese man, his Filipino wife, and their two daughters, who were asleep in their bedroom at the time of the crash, witnesses and officials said. Picture shows workers dismantling the crashed plane. (Reuters wirephoto)

Boeing smashes lights on landing in Philippines

MANILA, May 19. (Reuters): A Philippine Airlines (PAL) Boeing 737 smashed through a fence and runway approach lights as it landed in heavy rain at a provincial airport, the airline said today. None of the 72 people on board were hurt.

The plane's tyres blew out and the left wing was damaged as the plane underbroke the runway at Iloilo City airport, 460 km (285 miles) south of Manila, last

night, PAL said.

"Due to the poor visibility, the landing gear struck some approach lights and the perimeter fence," the airline said.

It was the fourth aviation accident in the country in eight days.

Twenty-five people were killed yesterday when a Philippine Beechcraft inter-island plane lost power on takeoff and exploded in a fireball in a Manila suburb.

A PAL Boeing 737 domestic jet exploded while preparing to take off from Manila on May 11, killing eight passengers and injuring dozens. Six people died the next day when an Air Force helicopter gunship crashed in southern Zamboanga City.

The two PAL 737 jets were leased from the US Boeing Co under the airline's expansion and modernisation programme.

Imelda jewelry billed to fictitious accounts, testifies jeweller

NEW YORK, May 19. (UPI): A salesman for an exclusive Fifth Avenue jeweller testified on Wednesday at the racketeering trial of Imelda Marcos that top items allegedly destined for the former Philippine first lady were billed to fictitious accounts.

Daniel Issert, a prosecution witness, testified that as a salesman at Van Cleef and Arpels, he sold jewelry to a secretary for Manila's presidential palace, apparently

for Imelda.

Imelda is being tried on charges that she and her late husband, former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos, conspired to buy New York real estate, art and jewelry with \$222 million stolen from their homeland.

Her co-defendant, former Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, is charged with helping to hide the Marcoses' ownership of

the real estate.

Issert said Imelda, for security reasons, never personally visited the store, but added that he would come to her during her visits to New York, either at her Waldorf Towers suite or the Philippine government's Manhattan Townhouse.

Under questioning by assistant US Attorney Debra Livingston, Issert said necklaces and earrings made of sapphires

and diamonds were billed to various accounts under the names "Santos, Bautista" ... it was a fictitious name for an account.

Under questioning from Imelda's lawyer, Gerry Spence, Issert said "a lot of people" had such billings.

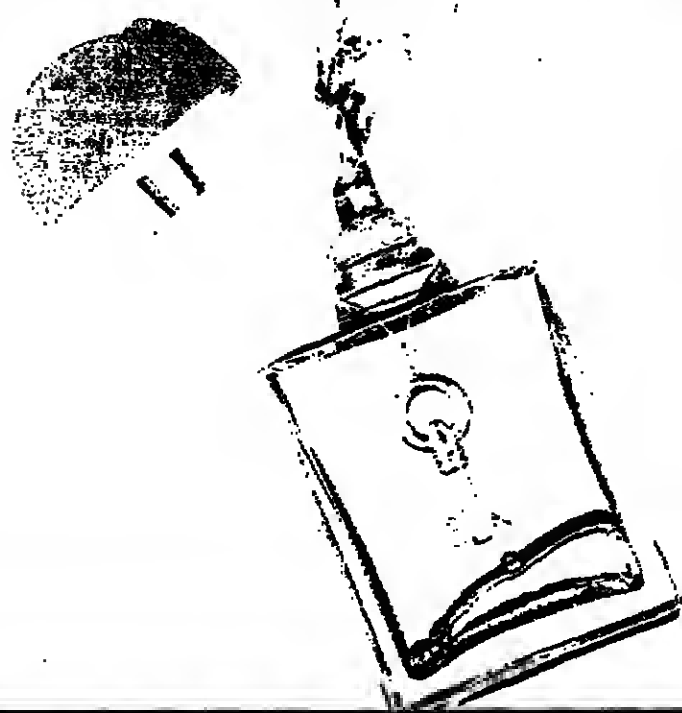
"The bigger they are, the more anonymity they would seek, because they didn't want everybody to know their business," enquired the tall, rugged Spence.

NILFISK

Available at
MARAFIE SONS CO.

Sharq Showroom
Ahmed Al Jaber Str, Sharq
Tel. 2449925/27 Ext. 302

Marafie Cleaning Center
Zahra Complex, Salamiya
Tel. 5753927



RED DOOR... The new fragrance for the new woman

RED DOOR is Elizabeth Arden's new dazzling fragrance for the 90s, created for a very special woman.

A woman with her own style. Fast-paced. Open to new experience. The woman of the 90s.

An elegant bouquet of deep, rich florals, complex, exotic, vibrant, unfolds from rare oriental orchids and forest lilies and freesia.

RED DOOR - from Elizabeth Arden.

Open it and step into the future of fragrance.

ELIZABETH ARDEN



Agents:
W. J. Towell & Co.
Tel: 4738732/4749904

Tapestry Exhibition



The House of Art is proud to exhibit a splendid collection of unique tapestries of Gulf and Arab heritage impression.

All tapestries are hand-tufted of pure wool in Yugoslavia, and are exhibited as of today, Sunday, 20 May, 1990 at:

Jabriya Commercial Center (1st floor)
Jabriya - Area 7, Street 103,
near Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital.

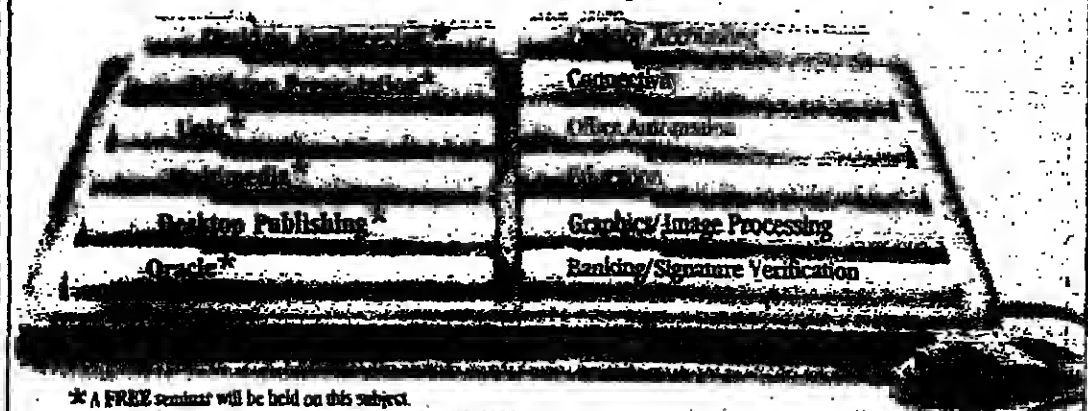
Exhibition hours, Saturday - Thursday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm, 4:00 - 8:00 pm.

For enquiries Tel. 5326951

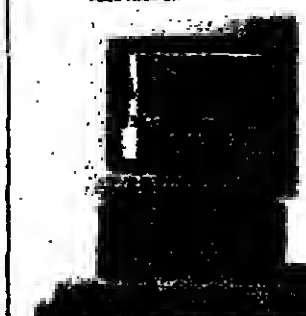
Think Apple Macintosh™ for your business

With its fully bilingual operating system, its total connectivity and its user friendliness it's all you need to shape up

Some solutions we have for you:



* A FREE seminar will be held on this subject. Please call for bookings: Tel: 2407100 Ext. 222 or 2472266 - Miss Haradi.



خدمة الكمبيوتر



Moudaba Service

• 3 months grace period
• No down payment
• Easy processing of application
• No transfer of salary required
• Valid till 30 June

From KUWAIT FINANCE HOUSE, Tel: 4330700, 2646536

Come to our
Mac Expo II
exhibition

The exhibition will be held on Sunday 20-Wednesday 23 May at the Crystal Ballroom, Kuwait Regency Palace at 9-11 p.m. and 4:30-8 p.m.

The power to be your best

Also Instalment Credit available from Commercial Facilities Co.
Al-Sabe Group Company w.L.L.
Authorized Apple Dealer
Tel: 240 45001, 240 7100. Fax: 240 1888.

بيت التمويل الكويتي

Jill Ireland dies after 6-year battle with cancer

MALIBU, California, May 19, (UPI): Actress Jill Ireland, who for 6 years fought against cancer, died yesterday at her home surrounded by her family. She was 54.

Ireland had been confined to her bed for the past week and by early yesterday had slipped into a coma. A family spokesman, Lori Jones, said she died at 11:30 am her husband, actor Charles Bronson, and her children were at her bedside.

Funeral arrangements were pending.

Ireland's last public appearance was on May 5, when she attended her son's wedding. The week before she attended ceremonies in Hollywood, where she was given a star on the Walk of Fame.

Ireland used her fame as an actress and the

wife of Bronson to promote cancer research, offering support and encouragement to victims of the disease she had battled for so long.

She was first stricken with breast cancer and underwent a mastectomy in 1984, followed by chemotherapy and radiation treatments. In early 1989 she learned the malignancy had spread to her lungs and other vital organs.

Ireland, a blond English beauty with cornflower-blue eyes and a lithe voice, began her performing career as a triple threat — singing, dancing and acting on stage, screen and in television.

But in recent years she was best known as an outspoken activist for cancer research

and medical insurance coverage.

Born on April 24, 1936, in London, Ireland made her professional debut at age 12 as a ballet dancer at London's Chiswick Empire Theatre.

At 15, she gave up formal schooling to attend theatrical workshops between performances with repertory companies in plays or musicals in London or on tour.

While still in her teens, she signed her first movie contract with the J. Arthur Rank Organisation and made her film debut in "Oh, Rosalinda" with Sir Michael Redgrave. She also starred in "Twice, Around the Daffodils" and "Jungle Street," the latter with David McCallum, who she had married.

At the end of her contract with Rank, Ireland and McCallum went to Hollywood in 1962 and she made her American television debut in an episode of the "Ben Casey" series.

Ireland and McCallum divorced in 1967. A year later she married Bronson and went on to work with her husband in more than a dozen films, including "From Noon Till Three," "The Valachi Papers," "Breakheart Pass," "Somewhere Behind the Door" and "Hard Times."

Her last movie, also with Bronson, was "Assassination," a 1987 feature in which she played the wife of a US president.

In the early years of her marriage to superstar Bronson, Ireland abandoned her solo

acting career to work only with her husband in order to keep the family together.

She and Bronson often took their seven children with them to film locations through the United States and abroad, where the actors found larger audiences than in the States.

The actress also stepped behind the scenes to co-produce a number of Bronson's movies, including "The Evil That Men Do" and "Murphy's Law."

In addition to Jason, she had two other sons, Paul and Valentine, from her marriage to McCallum. She also helped raise Tony and Suzanne, Bronson's son and daughter from a previous marriage.

Last November, Ireland had to face Jason McCallum's tragic death. Jason, adopted by Ireland shortly after his birth, accidentally overdosed on a combination of painkillers and muscle relaxants.

British actress Jill Ireland, who wrote two books on her six-year battle with cancer and the help given her by husband Charles Bronson, died on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)



British actress Jill Ireland, who wrote two books on her six-year battle with cancer and the help given her by husband Charles Bronson, died on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Youths outgrow 'troubling' traits

NEW YORK, May 19, (AP): Adolescents with personality problems serious enough to be considered disorders usually are just going through "a phase" and outgrow them in a few years, a study presented to psychiatrists suggests.

Another researcher called the findings a "hopeful statement" for exasperated parents of teenagers.

The study's results were presented Monday to the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association by David Bernstein, a psychologist at the Bronx Veterans Administration Medical Center and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

He cautioned that for other youths with personality disturbances, the troubles can be an early warning of long-standing difficulties. So, he said, parents should consider having troubled adolescents evaluated by a mental health professional if personality problems appear persistent.

The researchers focused on 10 types of personality disorders:

■ Paranoid, a tendency to view the actions of others as deliberate attempts to harm, deceive, or threaten.

■ Schizoid, in which a person neither wants nor enjoys close relationships, and often appears cold and aloof.

■ Schizotypal, a pervasive pattern of peculiarities in thoughts and behavior such as superstitions, bizarre fantasies and preoccupations.

■ Histrionic, which involves excessive emotionality and attention-seeking.

■ Narcissistic, which includes a grandiose sense of self-importance, extreme sensitivity to criticism and inability to recognize how other people feel.

■ Borderline, an instability in self-image, mood and relationships with others.

■ Avoidant, a pervasive pattern of discomfort in social settings, timidity and extreme fear of disapproval.

■ Dependent, which involves submissive behavior in a variety of contexts.

■ Obsessive-compulsive, a pattern of perfectionism and inflexibility in a variety of contexts.

■ Passive-aggressive, a pervasive tendency to resist meeting social and business obligations by such indirect means as procrastination or claiming to forget to do things.

Such traits appear in many healthy people, but can become a disorder if they form an inflexible pattern that significantly interferes with social or occupational functioning, or causes the person distress.

The study included 776 participants drawn from two New York counties. They were interviewed initially at ages 9 to 19, and again two years later.

Researchers found that 17 percent could be diagnosed with at least one disorder, including about one-third of 13-year-olds.

Only 39 percent of participants diagnosed for passive-aggressive disorder in the initial interview met criteria for that disorder two years later, and the other disorder were even less persistent.

Bernstein said the research with colleagues Dr. Larry Siever and Patricia Cohen and her colleagues at the New York State Psychiatric Institute.

The study's results do not mean that adolescent problems can be ignored, cautioned Dr. Daniel Offer, director of the Centre for the Study of Adolescence at Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Centre in Chicago.



Rolling Stones gather no moss

The Rolling Stones opened their first European tour for eight years in Rotterdam on Friday, playing a fiery rendition of "Star Me Up" to 50,000 fans, many of them a generation younger than their rock idols.

The veteran group is scheduled to appear in 13 West European countries in the next three months but may extend the tour to include the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and other East European nations, an official CBS records said.

Mick Jagger, in a lustrous red military coat and matching red socks, emerged from behind a dozen exploding torches to take command of the crowd at Rotterdam's Feyenoord stadium.

On stage, the same implacable energy that endeared him to crowds in the 1960s was attracting a new generation.

"The Rolling Stones are timeless," said Claudia Lichthartchen, who was born the same year the band was

formed — 1963.

"I grew up on the Stones. My parents listened to them and my older brothers," said another 24-year-old fan.

A quarter of a century after they first became a symbol of youthful rebellion, their "Urban Jungle" tour is expected to draw about 2.5 million fans in 21 cities and earn them an estimated \$70 million.

Once a symbol of decadence, Jagger, 47, was photographed in Dutch newspapers on Friday jogging in a drab grey running suit.

The Stones mixed old and new songs, dishing out "Sad, Sad, Sad" from 1969 with old favorites like "You Can't Always Get What You Want."

In the picture, Rolling Stones lead singer Mick Jagger and guitarist Ron Wood perform during the opening concert of the Urban Jungle European Tour 1990. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

WATSON, Kansas: Post Robert Bly refused an honorary degree from Benedictine College because of a dispute over abortion at the small Roman Catholic school.

"I hope everyone will understand this is an act of love for the college, because it is a remarkable college," Bly said to 132 graduating seniors and their families during commencement Saturday.

Bly objected to protests over a similar degree awarded to Gordon Parks, a photographer, filmmaker and author who is affiliated with Planned Parenthood, which supports abortion rights. He said there should be room for compromise on the abortion issue.

Anti-abortion advocates said it was inappropriate for someone associated with abortion rights to receive an honorary degree at the Catholic school. Parks decided April 27 to withdraw his acceptance of the degree, saying he did not want the controversy to detract from the commencement.

"By the element that was opposed to his (Parks) coming — by their winning, something was lost for everyone," Bly told the audience.

Bly said his decision was made after negotiations with the college just 24 hours before the ceremony. But he did not make the withdrawal public until the commencement ceremony.

Bly, a recipient of the National Hope Award and a Distinguished Fellow, teaches at the University of Minnesota. Parks serves on Planned Parenthood's board of directors. (AP)

PANAMA CITY, Panama: President Guillermo Endara, who just turned 53, announced Monday he plans to marry Ana Mire Diaz, a 22-year-old law student, next June 10, and it will be open house for everyone.

The portly president has been engaged to Miss Diaz since shortly after a US military invasion early in December deposed his predecessor, dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Presidential spokeswoman Raquel Gomez said the afternoon ceremony at the Roman Catholic metropolitan cathedral will be a simple one, but everyone in Panama is invited.

After the ceremony, the newly married couple will tour the city to a vintage open car that belonged to the late three-time president, Arnulfo Arias Madrid, before going to the presidential palace for a private wedding reception. (AP)

Asking price: \$9.7 m Fort for sale

PORTSMOUTH, England, May 19, (AP): A 130-year-old island fort off the south English coast which was built to deter the threat of French invasion and has been transformed into a luxury home is for sale.

The real estate company Knight Frank and Rutley handling the deal said yesterday that the seller, property developer Roger Penfold, is asking \$5.75 million (\$9.7 million).

The property, called No Man's Land Fort, is three miles (4.8 kilometers) off Portsmouth, in the Solent Seaway between the coast and the Isle of Wight, 70 miles (112 kilometers) southwest of London.

The fort, measuring three-quarters of an acre (0.3 hectares), was built to house 400 soldiers and 49 guns each weighing 70 tonnes. Construction began in 1866.

It was designed to defend against invasion by the French under Emperor Napoleon III, the nephew of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte who died in 1821.

The invasion never occurred and the circular, armour-plated stone fort fell into disuse and dereliction.

Penfold, 44, bought it from the Ministry of Defence for an estimated £300,000 (\$507,000) in 1986 and spent 2 1/2 years converting it into a luxury home.

The walls are 23 feet (7 metres) thick and stand 60 feet (18 metres) above the waves. Each of the armoured iron plates which clad the outside measures 100 square feet (9.2 square metres) and weighs 18 tonnes.

FORT WORTH, Texas: The next project for dancer-choreographer Tommy Tune will focus on humourist Will Rogers, and Tune says it will be nothing like the one-man show that James Whitmore did about Rogers.

"Oh, lord, no," said Tune. "It's a big one. Lots of showgirls, lots of dancers, lots of staircases."

Tune, 51, is again working with Tony Walton, the movie and stage designer who created the set for Grand Hotel, which has been nominated for 12 Tony Awards.

A Dec 1 opening is planned for the Will Rogers Musical, which has music written by Cole Coleman, whose current Broadway hit is City of Angels.

"It's going to be done like the Ziegfeld Follies, but based on the life of Will Rogers, because he was a star of the Follies," said Tune, who was in his native Texas to perform Friday at a benefit performance with the Manhattan Rhythm Kings.

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama: The grand-daughter of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze donned a US space camp uniform, but said she is not sure whether she would actually like to go into space.

"I think space travel is very interesting — it's part of the future," 11-year-old Sophia

Shevardnadze said Sunday. Sophia and seven other children from the Soviet Republic of Georgia will spend the next week in Huntsville taking part in simulated space shuttle missions aboard orbiter mockups and training on NASA astronaut simulators.

This is the first group of Soviet children to participate in a week-long programme of space camp activities, officials said.

LOS ANGELES: Academy Award-winning actress Meryl Streep and her husband, sculptor Donald Gummer, have bought a two-storey, Spanish-style house here for more than \$3 million.

Miss Streep, a native of New Jersey, has been outspoken about her preference for living in Connecticut and the east coast of the United States. She said the purchase was strictly business.

"We bought here because I got a job here. I never made a movie in Hollywood before," the star of Sophie's Choice and Kramer vs. Kramer said in a telephone interview from Burbank, where she is filming Defending Your Life, a romantic comedy co-starring Albert Brooks.

The house on the city's west side has four bedrooms and mountain and canyon views.

Christian Brando pleads innocent

LOS ANGELES, May 19, (AP): A glam, maverick Christian Brando, the son of actor Marlon Brando, sat silently in court as his lawyers entered an innocent plea to first-degree murder for the shooting death of his pregnant half-sister's boyfriend.

The 32-year-old Brando, handcuffed and clad in a grey shirt and jeans, spoke only twice to say "yes" when asked yesterday if he understood his right to a speedy preliminary hearing and whether he was willing to waive that right.

Los Angeles county municipal Judge Rosemary Shinsky ordered Brando held without bail, denying an urgent plea from his attorneys that a bail hearing be held immediately.

The prosecutor said he wasn't ready to argue bail, and the judge agreed to hold the hearing Tuesday. She set a scheduling date for June 11.

Famed civil rights lawyer William Kunstler appeared at Brando's side along with two other attorneys, but Kunstler left the legal arguments to local lawyer Dan Stornier.

The innocent plea on behalf of the self-employed artist and welder also covered other felonies: illegal possession of a machine-gun and a silencer that were found after the Wednesday night shooting in the den of Marlon Brando's mountaintop home on Mulholland drive.

Those weapons weren't used in the shooting, authorities said.

Christian Brando was charged with the murder of Dag Drolet, 26, a guest in the Brando home and the son of an official in the Tahitian capital of Papeete.

Drolet reportedly is the father of 20-year-old Tarita Cheyenne Brando's unborn child. Police said the shooting apparently was sparked by an argument over Drolet's treatment of Miss Brando. They said there were allegations that Drolet had beaten the young woman.

Brando, who sat in the jury box looking down at the floor through most of the hearing, had his hands cuffed removed briefly for the proceeding, but they were clamped back on his wrists as he was taken from the courtroom.

Brando's Oscar-winning father wasn't present. However, Christian Brando's former wife, Mary McKenna Brando, attended the hearing.

Outside the courtroom Kunstler said he discovered from the police report that "apparently there was an accidental firing of a gun."

"There was a struggle, a confrontation over the alleged beating of his sister, and a gun went off. This is not murder by any means," Kunstler said.

Police detective Steve Osti said earlier: "There was no indication there had been a physical altercation prior to the shooting."

The victim died instantly from a .45-caliber bullet to the head, police said. Coroner's office spokesman Bob Dambacher said an autopsy showed Drolet "died of a gunshot wound to the head and neck."

Kunstler said 66-year-old Marlon Brando has been very supportive of his son and was willing to take the stand and testify if necessary.

Kunstler said Brando had told his son "to be strong."

Kunstler said earlier that the actor called him Thursday, asking him to represent Christian Brando. Kunstler and Marlon Brando are longtime friends and allies in civil rights struggle of the past 30 years.

The small courtroom was jammed to capacity with reporters, photographers and television crews.

Real 'Southfork' ranch files for bankruptcy

PARKER, Texas, May 19, (AP): Southfork ranch was spared the recent flooding in north Texas, but J. R. Ewing's home oo "Dallas" hasn't exactly been left high and dry.

The international symbol of Texas glitz and glamour as portrayed on the series "Dallas" filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, temporarily blocking the 41-acre (16-hectare) tourist operation from being sold at auction.

Employees also say: — There have been two rounds of staff layoffs. — Ranch house carpeting required replacement because pipes burst during a winter freeze.

— Two Texas longhorns broke down part of a fence trying to get at a tourist who was irritating them by snapping photographs.

"It's discouraging, but I think we'll remain open," said ranch tour guide Paul Smith, 23.

It's no secret any longer that times are tough on the ranch, filmed as the home of the fictional J.R., his mother Miss Ellie and the rest of his extended family.

The ranch, near downtown Dallas, is the State's ninth most-visited tourist attraction.

THIS IS THE DARK SIDE OF CARPETS THAT MOST VACUUM CLEANERS ARE AFRAID TO SEE

Hoover cleans what other Vacuum cleaners leave behind

U-2332

U-5094

TURBOMASTER

- Complete Cleaning System
- Cleans all types of Carpets and floors
- Built-in Accessories and flexible hose for quick use
- Air Freshener
- Large 6.5L hygienic dirt bag

TURBOPOWER

- Perfect carpet care
- Two speed motor
- Headlamp
- Air Freshener
- Reusable bag
- Optional tools available

Hoover can handle it!

Over 55 years of tradition in quality and service.

Jashanmal & Partners Ltd.

KUWAIT: Tel. 2448700, 2420071/2 SALIMYA: Tel. 5721806

AL MUTHANNA: Tel. 2428081 AHMED: Tel. 2881919

ALSO AVAILABLE AT ALL AUTHORIZED HOOVER DEALERS

KUWAIT TRAVEL & TOURISM AGENCIES ASSOCIATION

KTAA QUALITY CONTROL IN AVIATION TRAINING

KTAA... MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSAL FEDERATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS ASSOCIATIONS

KTAA... THE TRAINING COMPANIONS OF KUWAIT AIRWAYS

KTAA announces the start of their training programme for members

Commercial Aviation Diploma

"Under the supervision of Kuwait Airways Instructors"

The training programme includes:

TRAVEL TERMINOLOGY

AIRLINE PASSENGER FARES

COMPUTERIZED RESERVATIONS

TRAFFIC AIRPORT SERVICES

INCLUSIVE TOURS

COMPUTERIZED AIRCRAFT LOAD CONTROL

AIRLINE RESERVATION TRAINING UTILISING KAC FACILITIES AT THE AIRPORT

LIMITED NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF TRAINING

INTRODUCTION TO COMMERCIAL AVIATION

MANUAL RESERVATIONS

CARGO & DANGEROUS GOODS RELATIONS

MARKETING & SALES

COMPUTER APPLICATION ON AIRPORT SERVICES

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS OF TRAVEL AGENCY

For further details or registrations please call 2424862, 2462350 or visit us at Al-Anji Bldg, 3rd floor, Al-Jalal Street, Kuwait. Tel. 2458570.

IATA/UFTAA AUTHORIZED TRAINING CENTRE

Skydome Hotel guests must keep minds on baseball or draw the drapes

TORONTO, May 19, (AP): Guests at Toronto's diamond-side Skydome Hotel will have to keep their minds on baseball or draw the drapes, the manager says.

A couple making love in one of the rooms overlooking the field in full view of some of the 40,000 Blue Jays fans proved to be a great publicity boon for one of the city's more unusual hotels.

But hotel manager Ray Thompson says the ruse is a respectable place.

"We are now going to post some simple

rules and regulations in the rooms," Thompson said yesterday. "There also will be an acknowledgement by the guest that the room in effect becomes part of the stadium, just as if it were a seat down below."

The Skydome Hotel is part of the domed baseball stadium complex. It has 348 rooms, 70 of which face the ballpark. Rooms range in price from \$169 to \$467.

"That includes tickets to the game — if they want to watch the game," Thompson

said.

On Tuesday, a woman wrapped in a towel and a naked man watched the Blue Jays play the Seattle Mariners from the window of their hotel room.

Soon, thousands of fans were watching them.

As the game wore on, the couple apparently wearied of being spectators and opted for a more participatory sport — giving new meaning to "the seventh inning stretch."

The lights were off in the hotel room, but the banks of ballpark lights revealed all.

Thompson, for one, doesn't believe the off-field activity was an accident.

"I believe the people, for their own particular reason, wanted to perform in front of 40,000 people," he said.

Asked if he was angry, Thompson said no.

"I wish they'd come back so I could thank them. It certainly has created a lot of interest in the hotel, and in that room."



Actor Gregory Hines (left) is comforted by Amy Green, a friend of Sammy Davis Jr., after Hines gave his speech at the funeral of the late singer and dancer. Several thousand family members, friends and fans attended the service at Hollywood's Forest Lawn Cemetery. (Reuter wirephoto)



The mother of Sammy Davis Jr., Elvera Sanchez (left) holds back tears while being escorted into her son's funeral on Friday at Hollywood's Forest Lawn Cemetery. (Reuter wirephoto)



The casket of entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. is brought out to the Hall of Liberty Chapel at Forest Lawn Cemetery on Friday after funeral services. Over 2,000 friends and fans attended the funeral. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hollywood's greatest

Davis eulogised

LOS ANGELES, May 19. (AP) With his own music setting the tone, Sammy Davis Jr. was eulogised yesterday as one of Hollywood's greatest entertainers — a song-and-dance man who was without peer in the diversity and depth of his talent.

Davis' version of "I've Got to Be Me" rang through the Hall of Liberty at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in the Hollywood Hills, where 1,200 people — friends and fans alike — filled the seats and hundreds more overflowed outside.

Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Michael Jackson and Bill Cosby were honorary pallbearers.

Gregory Hines, who co-starred with Davis in the film "Tap," recalled being 10 years old and seeing his idol performing several shows a day in 1956 Harlem's Apollo Theatre and being inspired by him to become an entertainer.

"It was indescribable, he could do everything," Hines recalled of Davis, who not only sang and danced, but played many instruments. "He could do all those things and he could tap also, I could only tap."

Cartel extends bombing drive

BOGOTA, May 19. (Reuter) Colombian drug traffickers appear to be extending a bombing campaign as presidential elections near that will decide the future of the country's tough anti-drug policy.

A car bomb exploded outside a shopping centre in the Caribbean resort of Cartagena on Thursday night, injuring 38 people, destroying several cars and damaging dozens of shops in a wealthy tourist area.

It was the fourth car bomb in six days. Three bombs exploded in crowded areas of Bogota and Cali last Saturday, killing 27 people and injuring scores.

Authorities blame the bombs on drug barons, who have waged war on the state since August when the government launched a head-on assault against cocaine traffickers.

An unknown group calling itself the Gomez Plata martyrs said it planted the Cartagena bomb on behalf of the Extraditables, top drug barons wanted in the United States.

The blast was another blow to Cartagena's tourist trade, just beginning to recover after a bomb exploded at a hotel there in September, killing two people.

The bomb exploded 10 days before Colombians vote in May 27 presidential elections that will decide the future of President Virgilio Barco's tough anti-drug policy.

Ruling Liberal Party candidate Cesar Gaviria will push on with the drug war but all other candidates have said they would seek alternatives.

Some Western diplomats say the drug traffickers are planting the bombs to intimidate voters to turn against Gaviria, favoured to win the polls, and to vote for other candidates who take a softer line towards them.

The campaign for the elections entered its final days in a siege-like atmosphere. After the murder of three presidential hopefuls in nine months, most candidates have retreated to the safety of television studios, making few public appearances.

Gaviria proposed yesterday that the government use assets seized from drug traffickers to compensate victims of drug violence.

A commission of inquiry will open hearings June 1 into reports that a shipment of Israeli arms sent to Antigua ended up in the hands of Colombia's Medellin drug cartel, the governor general has announced.

Fail to agree on aid bill

WASHINGTON, May 19. (UPI) House and Senate negotiators failed to agree on a long-awaited spending bill granting \$720 million in emergency aid for Panama and Nicaragua, adding to delays that have prompted anger at the White House.

President George Bush requested the foreign aid months ago, and he stepped up his campaign for the money this week with a public call for the Congress to delay its planned Memorial Day holiday if the bill is not finished.

Members of a conference working out the differences between the House and Senate supplemental spending bills have agreed on all new spending in the legislation. They were to complete their agreement yesterday by specifying the defence cuts that will offset the non-mandatory spending in the bill.

Sen Daniel Inouye, Democrat-Hawaii, chairman of the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, said the conferees had reached "a conclusion" on defence cuts. But he said "as a matter of courtesy" they would discuss the cuts with leaders of congressional defence committees before disclosing them.

Mice, men join forces

Scientists melding cells in effort to battle cancer

TOKYO, May 19. (AP) Scientists are melding the cells of mice and men in their search for ways to combat cancer.

Newly developed cells that are basically human but also have a genetic factor extracted from mice can deactivate the mechanisms in cancer cells that make them resistant to chemotherapy, Takashi Tsuruo, professor of applied microbiology at the University of Tokyo, reported at a conference in Tokyo.

Cancer cells, like viruses, tend to develop a resistance to certain drugs used to kill them. Resistant cancer cells also become immune to alternative drugs, making effective treatment more difficult.

Research results presented at the May 10-11 conference organised by the Japan Foundation for Cancer Research focused on progress in ways to overcome this resistance.

Genetic therapy and other biochemical techniques can be used to disarm cancer cells' defences while strengthening a patient's immune system, said Tsuruo, who also is chief researcher at the cancer chemotherapy centre at the Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research.

One new genetic technique involves injecting drug-resistant human cancer cells into a mouse.

Medical file

Measles epidemic

WASHINGTON, May 19. (Kuna) The number of cases of measles in the United States — already up 48 per cent over the last year — is still rising at a fast and dangerous rate, according to American health officials.

Dr William Roper, director of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta said that so far this year, there have been 3,538 cases of measles, with 44 deaths reported in 1989 in total. Last year was the worst in a decade with 17,830.

According to Roper, the hardest hit are usually the inner-city children, who are the least likely to be vaccinated.

Children are routinely vaccinated at 15 months and must show a certificate of vaccination to enter kindergarten. But about one fourth of preschoolers are unvaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and immunization rates have dropped from 64 per cent in 1980 to about 47 per cent last year in the United States.

Measles mainly affects children, causing red spots and flu-like symptoms. But it also can cause pneumonia, encephalitis and death, as well as hearing loss and impotence in adults.

But once a child gets measles, he or she cannot get it again, according to Roper.

25-year term

CAMDEN, New Jersey, May 19. (AP) An AIDS-infected jail inmate convicted of attempted murder for biting a guard received a 25-year prison sentence yesterday, prompting courtroom protesters to shout "shame shame" at the judge.

Gregory D. Smith, 26, was serv-

Altitude sickness

Could be fatal

KEYSTONE, Colorado, May 19. (AP) Altitude sickness afflicts one of four visitors to Colorado's mountains with effects ranging from nausea and headaches to death, according to a new study.

One victim was Howard Shapiro, a 40-year-old New York City lawyer. He flew to Denver one day in February and drove to this rocky mountain ski resort above 9,000 feet (2,745 metres) altitude.

"I became very dizzy, lightheaded. At the onset I was short of breath, but that seemed to abate pretty quickly. The headache went from mild to severe ... and then the constant vomiting," Shapiro said.

"At one point in time, dying seemed the lesser of two evils," he said.

In the morning, at the resort's Snake River health centre, he was asked to participate in an experimental programme. He was placed in a red gamow bag, which resembles a backpacker's tube tent. Air pressure in the bag is increased.

"We take him down to higher pressure and lower altitude. It's a simulated drop from Keystone's 9,300 feet to about 4,300 feet," or a drop from the 2,836-km level to 1,310 metres, said University of Colorado graduate student Jim Kasic, who is involved in the study by the Colorado altitude research institute based at the clinic.

In two hours, Shapiro could eat and drink again. Bengtsson Jaurin, 35, a microbiologist from Umea, Sweden, complained of the same symptoms after arriving at Friday, altitude 9,336 feet (2,755 metres). However to his room and was found dead the next morning, Jan 19.

An autopsy showed he died of respiratory failure due to high altitude pulmonary edema, an abnormal accumulation of fluid in the lungs.

"The problem involves dozens of millions of people — 13 million visitors to Colorado alone each year," said Dr Charles Houston, founder of the institute.

Altitude sickness has been found to afflict 23 per cent of those surveyed so far at the clinic, he said.

"It doesn't mean they're incapacitated," said Houston. "But with simple measures, we think we can stop at least a dozen preventable deaths a year from altitude sickness in Colorado. Make that 12 to 20 deaths that are preventable," Houston said.

ing a five-year term in Camden county jail for robbery when he bit officer Albert Wadlington during a scuffle in a hospital emergency room.

Smith was convicted April 11 of attempted murder, four counts of

aggravated assault and one count of making terroristic threats.

Wadlington, 26, said Smith bit him three times on the hand, spat on and said, "now die, you pig. Die from what I have."

Smoking kills half million women

WHO reports: little attention paid

GENEVA, May 19. (Kuna) Smoking kills over half a million women each year in the industrialised world and is also an increasingly important cause of ill-health among women in developing countries, says a World Health Organisation (WHO) publication, "World Health."

The authors of the article dealing with women and tobacco note that despite alarming statistics, the scale of the threat that smoking poses to women's health has received little attention since smoking is still seen by many as a male problem because they were the first to take up the habit and first to suffer its ill effects.

"This is no longer the case. Women who smoke like men will die like men," observes Dr Amanda Amos, lecturer in health education at the University of Edinburgh and Dr Claire Chollat-Traquet, a scientist with the tobacco health programme of WHO.

A recent WHO consultation commission on the statistics aspects of tobacco-related mor-

tality concluded the toll that can be attributed to smoking throughout the world is 2.7 million deaths per year.

It also predicted that, if current patterns of cigarette smoking continue unchanged, the global death toll from tobacco by the year 2025 may increase to eight million deaths per year — a large proportion will be amongst women.

In industrialised countries, WHO estimates that smoking rates amongst men and women are very similar at around 30 per cent, in a large number of developed countries, smoking is now more common among teenage girls than boys.

Further, smoking causes the same disease in women as in men and the gap between their death rates is narrowing. On current trends, some 20 to 25 per cent of women who smoke will die from the habit and one in three deaths will be among women under 65 years old.

Over the last 20 years, death rates in women from lung cancer have more than doubled in

Japan, Norway, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. They have increased by more than 200 per cent in Australia, Denmark and New Zealand and have increased by more than 300 per cent in Canada and the United States.

The co-authors of the article point out that there are dramatically increasing trends in respiratory cancer among women in developed countries, and the casual relationship of smoking to lung cancer is very clear.

Moreover, smoking is already an important cause of cancer in many developing countries. In Southeast Asia more than 85 per cent oral cancer cases in women are caused by tobacco habits.

Smoking also affects women's health in ways that are specific to women, and that puts them at added risk. Women smokers, for example, have higher rates of cervical cancer, while those who smoke and use the oral contraceptive pill are several times more likely to develop cardiovascular diseases than those who use neither.

In a reaction like that for a vaccination for any other disease, the mouse then develops antibodies to fight the illness. Antibodies are proteins formed by the body's immune system to counteract foreign substances such as bacteria.

From new mouse antibodies, Tsuruo isolated and produced monoclonal antibodies — genetically identical molecules that can be targeted at cancer cells and used to destroy them.

The antibodies, he said, bind to the outside of cancer cells and prevent them from ejecting chemotherapy drugs before the cancer is destroyed.

Conference participants gave a standing ovation to Tsuruo for sharing the monoclonal antibodies be developed with researchers in Europe and the United States, said Dr Gregory Curt, clinical director of the US National Cancer Institute's cancer treatment division.

Conversely, the cancer cells' main line of defence against chemotherapy, called pump proteins because they expel the drugs from the cancer cells, can be used to make other human cells stronger, reported Dr Michael Gottesman, chief of the biology laboratory at the US National Cancer Institute.

In his research, Gottesman isolated and transferred pump proteins from cancer cells into bone marrow cells of mice, thus arming the mice's white blood cells with the protective pump protein. Those white blood cells, which are normally destroyed by powerful chemotherapy, remained unharmed, he said.

"This is designer genes at their best," Curt said. "Gottesman's research makes it possible to do this with men as well as with mice, making people immune to the effects of cancer drugs."

"Nearly everyone has a mother, a father or someone close who has been treated by these drugs and told the tumour shrunk only to be told later that the tumour has regrown. In the end, nearly everyone dies of the disease. Now we're finding ways to get around that drug resistance."

"Gene therapy is the key to the next step in medical treatment world-wide," he said.

Dr Karen Antman of Harvard University and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute presented research results from clinical studies indicating that very high doses of chemotherapy coupled with bone marrow transplants can increase chances for survival in breast cancer patients whose cancer has spread to other parts of the body.

The transplants, using a reserve of the patients' own bone marrow, are used to replace bone marrow destroyed by the massive chemotherapy doses, she said. Since bone marrow is the source of white blood cells, a key factor in the body's immune system, quick replacement of the destroyed cells is necessary to prevent infection.

Dinosaur-destroying asteroid

Impact site found

WASHINGTON, May 19. (UPI) Scientists believe they have found evidence that shows a giant asteroid or comet thought to have destroyed dinosaurs 65 million years ago may have struck earth in the Caribbean Sea, it was reported.

The asteroid, believed to have been about 6 miles (9 km) in diameter, appears to have struck earth near the region where North and South America connect, researchers said in a study published yesterday in the journal Science.

Alan Hildebrand and William Boynton of the University of Arizona at Tucson based their conclusions on a study of sediment deposits and other geological features in the Colombian basin of the Caribbean sea.

Beneath the sea floor, the scientists found evidence of a 180-mile-diameter (290-km-diameter) structure that appears to be a crater of the size that could have been caused by an asteroid 6 miles (9 km) in diameter.

In addition, they discovered thick sediments in Cuba that look like deposits of a giant wave produced by an asteroid crashing into nearby ocean water. They also found a 20-inch-thick (50-cm-thick) layer of "shocked" rock on Haiti's southern peninsula that appears to have been ejected by an asteroid impact about 65 million years ago. The layer of ejected material in Haiti is 25 times thicker than at any other known site at that time period, and indicates an asteroid strike within 600 miles (1,000 km), researchers said.

The Arizona team's findings are the latest in a growing body of evidence supporting the "extraterrestrial" theory of dinosaur extinction first proposed by Nobel laureate Luis Alvarez in 1980.

Alvarez speculated the abrupt demise of dinosaurs and many other life-forms about 65 million years ago, between the Cretaceous and tertiary periods, was caused by a large asteroid or comet striking earth.



Pride of Baltimore

The two-mast clipper "Pride of Baltimore II" USA, which is said to be one of the most beautiful sailships in the world, enters the harbour of Hamburg during a voyage to Europe on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)

American arrested for raping Mexico minors

MEXICO CITY, May 19. (UPI)

A California man arrested in Mexico and charged with raping at least 11 boys under 12 years old after enticing them with gifts and money has been found to have AIDS, Mexican authorities said yesterday.

The Mexican attorney general's office said William Lee Heigel, 43, of Ventura California, and now a resident of Ft Worth, Texas, admitted he raped as many as 50 boys in the United States and Mexico in the past three years.

Heigel was ordered to stand trial in the border city of Nuevo Laredo on charges of rape, corruption of minors and breach of public morals, the attorney general's spokesman, Arturo Antelmo, told United Press International.

Antelmo said Heigel was arrested last Saturday night after being stopped for a routine inspection by anti-narcotics agents at a bus station in Nuevo Laredo, in the northern state of

Tamaulipas.

The agents discovered in his luggage a plastic case with colour photographs of nude boys, a jar of vaseline, an instant camera and a used bus ticket from Mexico City to Nuevo Laredo, Antelmo said.

Antelmo said Interpol was informed of the case and was carrying out its own investigations.

Heigel is currently being held under observation at the clinic of the Nuevo Laredo social redaction centre. "According to preliminary medical analyses, (Heigel) shows symptoms of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome," a statement from the attorney general's office said.

The statement said Heigel admitted to raping at least 11 Mexican minors in the central state of Guanajuato and in Neza-hualcoyotl, a poor city of some 3 million people that borders on the eastern fringe of Mexico City.

Dominican poll outcome is delayed

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, May 19. (AP) An examination of vote totals is delaying the official outcome of a tight race between President Joaquin Balaguer, the conservative incumbent, and left-challenger Juan Bosch.

The Central Electoral Board agreed Friday to check its vote totals against those recorded by the main political parties after Bosch accused Balaguer of widespread fraud, a charge that has not been substantiated.

As a result, Bosch called off a street demonstration planned for Friday to protest against the vote count. Balaguer, a five-time president who is 83 and blind, and Bosch, 39, a former president who was overthrown in a 1963 military coup, were locked in their fifth race for the presidency of this Caribbean nation of 7 million people. Balaguer won three of the four previous races.

With 88 per cent of polling stations reporting, Balaguer led Bosch by 13,000 votes, according to the Central Electoral Board. Balaguer had 579,431 votes and Bosch 566,405 of the 6,663 polling stations reporting, official results showed.

Contras suspend disarming indefinitely: action could shatter Nicaragua's fragile peace

Claim atmosphere of uncertainty and social instability



Riot police stand guard as students demonstrate on Friday outside the National Assembly in Managua. The students oppose a move by the government to repeal a law granting autonomy to universities. (Reuter wirephoto)

MANAGUA, May 19. (AP) Nicaraguan rebels indefinitely suspended their disarmament process yesterday leading officials of both the government and the Sandinista opposition to warn that the action could shatter a fragile peace.

The US-backed rebels said in a communiqué signed by chief of staff Israel Galeano that they were no longer surrendering their weapons because of an "atmosphere of uncertainty and social instability" provoked by the leftist Sandinistas, who were voted out of power in the Feb 25 national elections.

Strikes by government workers, many of them still loyal to the Sandinistas, paralysed Nicaragua earlier this week.

Galeano called for a review of disarmament accords signed earlier this year by the rebels, known as Contras.

Sergio Ramirez, the former Sandinista vice president who leads the Sandinista delegation to Parliament, said yesterday there could be no changes in the accords "because to do so would be to renew uncertainty and open the perspective of more pain, more death, more blood."

Alfredo Cesar, a close adviser to President Violeta Chamorro, also said the rebels should put down their weapons.

"The Nicaraguan resistance should understand that the nation's stability depends on the disarmament, the demobilisation and the full integration of the rebels into civil life," said Cesar, who himself used to be a civilian Contra leader before joining Chamorro's US-backed campaign.

The rebels' agreement to disarm had helped assure a peaceful transition of government when

Chamorro was inaugurated on April 25, replacing Sandinista president Daniel Ortega. Ortega had led the government for a decade and his brother, Humberto Ortega, had led the national armed forces — the People's Sandinista Army.

The rebels, who had tried for a decade to oust the Sandinistas, were initially reluctant to disarm. They feared Chamorro would not be able to control the Sandinista Army, which she vowed to depoliticise.

Yesterday the rebels mentioned other concerns. Besides referring to the Sandinista provoked "social instability," Galeano said his troops were not receiving promised medical assistance and food; that some Sandinista troops were still in security zones where the rebels have concentrated; and that demobilised Contras were being harassed when they returned home.

INTERNATIONAL

US finds cocaine traffickers' tunnel

DOUGLAS, Arizona, May 19, (Reuters). United States customs officials said yesterday they had uncovered a highly-sophisticated tunnel, described as something out of a spy movie, used by drug smugglers to carry thousands of pounds (kilos) of cocaine across the US-Mexico border.

The tunnel, more than 200 feet long (60 metres), resembled "something out of a James Bond movie — it's just unbelievable," said Thomas McDermott, US customs special agent in Douglas.

Customs officials said they discovered the well-equipped tunnel connecting a luxury house in Agua Prieta, Mexico, with a warehouse just across the border in Douglas on Thursday night.

The tunnel's US opening is hidden under a pool table and covered with a hydraulically-lifted concrete slab in the warehouse floor, agents said.

The five-foot-high (1.5 metres), reinforced concrete tunnel was equipped with electrical outlets and lights and had side rooms large enough to hold several tonnes of cocaine, they said.

Route

Judy Turner, customs spokeswoman in Houston, said authorities believed the tunnel had been built by drug cartels. The tunnel appeared to be a major route for cocaine smuggling into Arizona and California, she said.

"We would speculate a drug cartel would go this far to build a tunnel. This tunnel is incredibly sophisticated and professionally engineered," she said.

The tunnel, 30-feet (nine metres) below ground, had been in use since late last year, customs officials said. They estimated it took six months to build and cost around \$2 million.

Agents said they learned about the tunnel from drug traffickers arrested in raids in southern Arizona last month.

Arrested

Customs agents last week seized more than a tonne of cocaine valued at about \$100 million near Phoenix, Arizona, that had been smuggled through the tunnel and arrested two men, McDermott said.

"We know this cocaine load that we took down last week was destined for Phoenix and Los Angeles," Turner said.

Mexican officials made two arrests at the house in Agua Prieta on Thursday, Turner said. She said US agents expect to make more arrests.

She said intensified aerial and ground surveillance in recent years had likely spurred construction of the tunnel.

"It clearly shows the fact that the drug cartels are desperate to get their goods into the United States and they will stop at nothing," Turner said.

Customs agents are still investigating how much cocaine may have been smuggled through the tunnel, Turner said.

Blacks demo after murder trial verdict

New York mayor Dinkins appeals for calm

NEW YORK, May 19, (Agencies). Mayor David Dinkins appealed for calm after demonstrators, enraged by the murder acquittal of a white youth accused of leading a mob that shot dead a black teenager, threatened to take the law into their own hands.

Extra police were mobilised when 200 black demonstrators marched around the courthouse, broke bottles, burned a flag, overturned police barricades and shouted: "We're going to Bensonhurst to burn it down. Burn, baby, burn."

Some threw a police barricade at a photographer. Others knocked

over a food stand run by Asians, spit at and jostled whites and knocked down an Hassidic Jew.

The white youth, Keith Mondello, 19, was acquitted of murder and manslaughter but convicted of lesser charges on Friday in the shooting of Yusuf Hawkins, 16, last August 23.

"We have had enough pain. We have had enough hate. Let Yusuf Hawkins' death be the last in a terrible cycle of discrimination," Dinkins appealed, his third plea for calm in a week.

"We ask those of you who grieve over the loss of Yusuf not to be



A crowd of angry demonstrators charges through downtown Brooklyn on Friday as a jury found a white youth not guilty of the murder of an unarmed black teenager, a killing that has inflamed racial tensions in New York. (Reuters wirephoto)



Keith Mondello, mother of Yusuf Hawkins, weeps as she is escorted by police officers to a press conference in New York on Friday after a jury found her son not guilty of murder. (Reuters wirephoto)



Keith Mondello arrives at Brooklyn Supreme Court in New York on Friday where a jury found him not guilty of murder. (Reuters wirephoto)

swayed by those who spread their venom to cause the city more pain."

Mondello was accused of leading about 30 whites who attacked Hawkins and three friends, who had gone to predominantly Italian Bensonhurst to look at a used car.

The mob thought the blacks were going to a birthday party given by an 18-year-old former girlfriend of Mondello's.

On Thursday, the accused triggerman in the attack, Joseph Fama, was found guilty of murder.

On Friday night, dozens of blacks led by black activist Al Sharpton marched to Hawkins' home in the mostly black east New York section of Brooklyn, shouting "Yusuf, Yusuf" and vowing to take the law into their own hands.

They punched reporters and broke the windscreens of vans used by television crews.

Although Mondello was acquitted of murder and manslaughter, he was convicted of taking part in a riot and illegally detaining his victim. Mondello faces up to 16 years in jail at his sentencing June 11.

As the not guilty verdicts were read, Hawkins' parents cried, "oh no," and his mother, Diane, wept uncontrollably, beating her fists against her knees.

Sharpton, who had vowed that the city would burn if there was an acquittal, stood up, pointed at Mimi Snowden, the black forewoman of the jury, and said: "You are finished, you."

Others shouted curses and made threats. But Snowden stared back at Sharpton until he sat down.

Michael Mondello, the defendant's father, declared: "It's God's will, it's God's will. Jesus has risen. Jesus has risen. Now my mother can rest in peace."

The jury — composed of six whites, three blacks and three Hispanics — deliberated for 11 days before reaching a decision.

Outside the courtroom, Mondello's attorney, Stephen Murphy, said: "I think Mr Mondello was happy with the verdict. But when a young man's dead and another young man's in jail for murder, I don't think there's any winners."

Prosecutor James Kohler said he was concerned the verdict would be "misunderstood," noting that "Keith Mondello was not acquitted of all crimes... (he) was found guilty of several crimes."

Bail for Mondello was revoked after the verdict and he was sent directly to jail. Sentencing was set for June 11. Mondello faces a minimum of one and one-third to four years in prison, and he could get a maximum eight to 24 years if Justice Thaddeus Owens orders consecutive sentences.

Moscow cops set to walk US beats

Soviet-America police officers exchange

NEW YORK, May 19, (AP). Thirteen Moscow police officers arrived here yesterday for a week of visits to US police departments in what is being called the first law enforcement exchange with the Soviets.

"The programmes set up for them are pretty inclusive: Drugs, canine units, all the equipment, ballistics, courtrooms, jails, crime labs," said Cynthia Dickstein, president of the Organisation for America-Soviet Exchanges, a private, non-profit agency that arranged the visit.

The Soviet men, who will stay in the homes of local police, will visit police departments in Albany, Amsterdam and Rochester in upstate New York; New London, Connecticut; Deland, Florida; and Larkspur, California.

Eight were scheduled to stay overnight in New York and do

some sightseeing before being driven to their destinations. The two heading for Florida and California were scheduled to catch connecting flights from New York.

This fall, 13 US officers will make similar visit to the Soviet Union.

The Soviets, age 27 to 45, hold executive positions in what amounts to the Moscow bureau of the Soviet National Police Force. They include the colonel in charge of Moscow's criminal investigation unit, officers who police the black market and a captain in the traffic department.

Soviet officials last year said their country had the fastest-growing crime rate in the world, but still trailed behind the United States in overall crimes.

In the first eight months of 1989, more than 1.5 million crimes were reported in the

Soviet Union, a 33.2 per cent jump over the same period the year before, Soviet officials said.

Still, Soviet officials said there are only 5.9 murders per 100,000 Soviets, compared with 8.9 per 100,000 in America.

The visits are expected to combine socialising with a demonstration of local police work.

Volsia Country Sheriff's Sgt. Boh Matusick in Deland plans to treat Col. V T Bobryashov to a back yard cookout, a trip to Disney World and Kennedy Space centre along with visits to the state crime lab in Orlando and the Blue Lightning Strike Force in Miami.

Matusick, who led American law enforcement officers on a two-week trip to the Soviet union last month, said Bobryashov and his colleagues will likely be amazed by US law enforcement technology.



A Soviet 'Mir' orbital station used for training by cosmonauts at the Star City space centre near Moscow. Reports said the two cosmonauts aboard 'Mir' are now left without reliable means of returning to Earth after their Soyuz craft was damaged during its launch last Feb 11. (Reuters wirephoto)



Cosmonauts Anatoly Soloyev (right) and Alexander Baladin prior to their space flight February 1990. The cosmonauts are presently aboard the Soviet Union's orbiting Mir space station without a reliable means of returning to Earth. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soyuz ferry damaged

Cosmonauts without 'lifeboat'

NEW YORK, May 19, (Reuters). Two cosmonauts aboard the Soviet Union's orbiting Mir space station have been without a reliable means of returning to earth since February and are preparing to make emergency repairs on their ferry craft, an industry journal reported yesterday.

US space experts said, however, that the Soviet Union had known about the problem since it occurred in February and the cosmonauts were not in any danger.

Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine, quoting a source, said:

"ing a visiting Soviet cosmonaut, said the Soyuz craft, which carried the cosmonauts to the space station was damaged during launch on Feb 11, leaving the two men 'without a reliable escape vehicle in the event of an emergency.'"

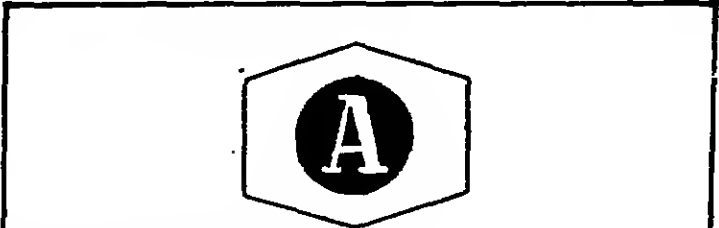
Spokesmen for the US space agency declined all comment on the matter.

But the American space experts who are knowledgeable about the Soviet space programme said Soviet space officials had not expressed any grave concern about the

Tory loses in N-Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, May 19, (AP). Britain's ruling Conservative Party was trounced in its first entry into Northern Ireland politics, finishing sixth in a parliamentary special election, according to the tally announced yesterday.

David Trimble of the Ulster Unionist Party polled 58 per cent of the votes to hold the Upper Bann district seat for his party, the largest of the predominantly Protestant unionist parties.



Bids are invited by the Arabian Oil Company, Ltd., for the supply of the following:

- | | COST | OD | DOC. |
|---|------|-----|------|
| 1. TO-019 Catering utensils | KD. | 8.- | |
| 2. TO-035 Scale inhibitor | KD. | 8.- | |
| 3. TO-036 Spare parts for NEC communication equipment | KD. | 4.- | |
| 4. TO-037 Parts for BS & B equipment | KD. | 4.- | |
| 5. TO-038 Oil-on-water alarm system | KD. | 4.- | |
| 6. TO-039 Hose lifting buoy & anchoring chain | | | |
| 7. TO-040 Pipe, fittings and valves | | | |
| 8. TO-041 Cable and switch box | | | |
| 9. TO-042 Marine ropes | | | |
| 10. TO-043 Spare parts for Sasakura water plant | | | |
| 11. TO-044 Spare parts for sewage plant | | | |

Kuwaiti and Saudi merchant registered with A.O.C. may relevant tender documents from the Company's offices during working hours as follows:

Kuwait & Dammam Offices:
19-05-90 to 30-06-90
Riyadh Office: 19-05-90 to 23-06-90

Due to continue expansion Contracts Administration Limited

invites applications for the position of **SENIOR QUANTITY SURVEYOR**

Applicants should be qualified to UK: R.I.C.S., A.C.I.O.B. or B.Sc. standard.

Please reply in writing with CV to: P.O. Box 6168 Salmiyah 22072 Salmiyah, Kuwait Tel. 2438759

Sphinx monitor: A computerized weather station atop the sphinx will begin transmitting data that scientists hope will help them stop the monument's alarming decay.

The Sphinx has deteriorated more in the last 30 years than in all previous centuries of its existence combined, says Tawfik, Egypt's chairman of antiquities, said Tuesday.

People have worked for thousands of years to keep the 4,600-year-old crouching lion with a Pharaoh's face from falling apart, but nothing has worked for very long.

Rocks still fall from the structure, located at the base of the Giza Pyramids. A large stone fell from the great beast's shoulder in February 1988, provoking an international outcry.

The weather station sits piggyback on the Sphinx's back, held in place by sandbags.

It will monitor rainfall, wind direction and speed, relative humidity, pollutants, temperature and the effects of water and salt on the limestone layers that make up the statue. (AP)

Time to protect Earth: An engineering society thinks it's time the world arms itself against asteroids that might collide with Earth.

Nuclear warheads, suggests the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, may be needed to protect the planet against mountain-sized space boulders that might smash into the Earth at 46,000 miles (74,000 kilometres) an hour.

Some have struck Earth in the past. Only last year, an asteroid bigger than an aircraft carrier passed within 400,000 miles, (643,600 kilometres) of the Earth — a distance less than twice as far as the moon.

"Such an object, if it struck the Earth today, could cause a disaster of unprecedented proportions," the AIAA paper said.

Johan Benzon, the institute's administrator for public policy, said, "It has been speculated that a nuclear weapon could be used to destroy or deflect an asteroid if it was discovered a year or so before impact. (AP)

Satellite rescue: The owners of a stranded communications satellite are weighing an offer from NASA to launch a shuttle rescue mission for at least \$130 million.

Intelsat's board of governors will determine the fate of



A US Air Force security vehicle drives through a jet exhaust plume as the F-117 'Stealth' fighter plane taxis in off the runway at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington on Thursday. The aircraft which has only been shown to the public in a handful of exhibitions, will be shown to the public in Maryland, US, during an upcoming air show. (Reuters wirephoto)

Stealth to go on show

the satellite, orbiting uselessly 345 miles (555 kilometres) high, at a meeting next month.

"One of the paramount issues to be addressed is the question of cost," said Tony Trujillo, a spokesman for the Washington-based not-for-profit consortium of 19 countries. It operates a global communications satellite system.

Nasa payload manager William D. Green said Tuesday the space agency will send up a shuttle in late 1991 or 1992 to rescue the Intelsat VI satellite if Intelsat covers the cost. (AP)

Plant vaccine: A kind of vaccine that protects plants against pests can reduce reliance on hazardous pesticides, the vaccine's developer says.

The vaccine involves the insertion of bacteria called endophytes into a plant's seeds. The bacteria have been genetically engineered to carry a naturally occurring protein that kills insects, said Peter S. Carlson, who developed the vaccine.

As the plant grows, the endophytes spread the protein throughout the plant, he said at a Rockefeller Foundation seminar on agricultural research.

Researchers reported in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute Tuesday that flour-mill workers had a cancer rate nine times that of the general population because of the workers' exposure to pesticides in grain storage. (AP)

Schizophrenia diagnoses: Psychiatrists and psychologists who viewed old home movies usually were able to identify children who would be diagnosed with schizophrenia as adults, a researcher says.

The study supports the view that the disease follows an early brain abnormality, said psychology professor Eliaze Walker of Emory University in Atlanta.

"There may be early subtle signs of vulnerability to schizophrenia," Walker said Monday.

The project involved home movies that portrayed five infants and children up to age 5 who were later diagnosed with schizophrenia as young adults. Thirteen psychologists and psychiatrists were shown the films, which also included at least one sibling.

The mental health professionals were asked to guess which one later was diagnosed as schizophrenic.

Their performance was much better than one would expect by chance, which suggests they were able to spot clues, Walker said.

The observers said the signs included delayed development of motor skills, awkwardness, and unexpected emotional responses shown in the face. (AP)

Neurotoxicity safeguard: Attempts to safeguard the public against toxic chemicals that attack the nervous system have been fragmented and ineffective, raising concern about the health of millions of Americans, congressional researchers said in Washington.

A study by the office of technology assessment concluded the government should devote more research to the risks posed by such chemicals and develop a co-ordinated programme to regulate them.

"Chronic neurotoxicity presents a health risk every bit as large and as tragic as cancer, yet almost nothing is being done about it," said Sen. Albert Gore, chairman of the Senate subcommittee on science, technology and space.

"Our regulatory system is virtually blind to this risk," (AP)



Sit-down in Taipei

About 100 intellectuals, including professors and lawyers, Friday began a three-day sit-down in Taipei to protest the planned nomination of Defence Minister Hau Pei-tsun as premier.

The protesters will continue the demonstration in the Taipei park until May 20, when President Lee Teng-hui will be inaugurated to his first full six-year term, said professor Yang Kuo-shu of the prestigious National Taiwan University and an organizer of the event.

"Our protest might not influence President Lee's decision," he said. "But as intellectuals we have a responsibility to inform the people what is the truth."

In an open letter, the protesters alleged that the nomination of Gen. Hau, a four-star general, was not only unconstitutional, but would also "undermine democratic development in Taiwan."

According to the constitution, military personnel may not simultaneously hold government posts. Critics also fear that the powerful defence chief will impose military control in government as well as in general society.

President Lee announced at the beginning of May that he planned to nominate Hau as the new premier, saying he believed Hau could help stabilise deteriorating social order.

Sui Yang said, "choosing a strong military man to be premier doesn't guarantee social stability. A forceful premier might cure the symptoms, but not the root of Taiwan's problems."

In the picture, a demonstrator tries to wake his young son who has fallen asleep on Friday during a sit-down protest against the naming of Hau Pei-tsun as Taiwan's next premier. (Reuters wirephoto)

Massive student rallies mark Kwangju uprising

Police withdrawn from Chonnam campus as one dies

KWANGJU, South Korea, May 19 (AP): More than 35,000 students shouting anti-government and anti-US slogans barricaded themselves at a university today in continuing unrest marking the 10th anniversary of a civilian revolt against military dictatorship.

Meanwhile, a student died after being injured trying to reach the protest.

As news of the student's death spread tonight, thousands of riot police who had been deployed outside the campus of Chonnam University withdrew, apparently to avoid provoking protesters.

Kwangju police chief Paek Hyung-Jo said the withdrawal was to avoid "unexpected incidents". He did not elaborate, but deaths of radical students have triggered massive demonstrations in the past when students felt police were to blame.

Earlier, about 3,500 combat-clad police, supported by armoured tear-gas vans, surrounded the sprawling national campus and searched all visitors. About 230 students were arrested by police near the school.

The students planned to stay overnight at the school and attend a massive anti-government rally to be held in central Kwangju tomorrow in alliance with dissident groups. Police said the rally was illegal and it would be blocked.

Students used tyres, school desks, chairs and broken furniture to erect 3- to 4-metre (10- to 12-foot-) high barricades at the university's three gates. More than 500 students armed with 1-metre (3-foot-) long metal pipes stood guard inside each gate.

"Our nation has no hope until (President) Roh Tae-Woo and the United States are ousted," student leader Song Gap-Suk told a rally.

Song, a fugitive being sought by police for instigating violent protests, shouted that the US military presence in South Korea is a major obstacle to Seoul's unification with communist North Korea. About 43,000 US troops are stationed here under a mutual defence treaty.

The crowd applauded and cheered wildly, waving dozens of banners, many with paintings of torn US flags or students shaking a fist at authority.

In downtown Kwangju, several groups of 50 to 100 students clashed with riot police sporadically today, hurling rocks and firebombs. Police dispersed them with tear-gas.

Before dawn today, police fired warning shots after dozens of people attacked two police substations.

Yesterday, about 7,000 people rioted in the streets of this city on the anniversary of a bloody civil revolt, burning tyres and attacking people with rocks and firebombs. They demanded the ouster of Roh.

Kwangju, with more than one million people, is 259 km (156 miles) south of Seoul. Citizens blame the government and the United States for the violent suppression of a 1980 pro-democracy revolt, the worst in modern Korean history.

Police said about 5,300 people were arrested yesterday in nationwide protests held in more than a dozen cities in observance of the 10th anniversary of the uprising.

Police said all but 481 of the 4,325 arrested in Seoul had been released. There were 123 people arrested in Kwangju and at least 20 injured, police said. Another 23 were injured in other cities, police said.

Roh's safety threatened

TOKYO, May 19 (AP): A radical rightist group has sent letters to Japanese news agencies threatening the safety of South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo during his visit to Tokyo next week, officials said today.

"Rob Tae-Woo, do not come. If you come, we won't guarantee your safety," Kyodo news service said the letter it received said.

The letters, to Kyodo and Jiji press, were signed by the Sekihotai, a group that previously has claimed responsibility for the 1988 murder of reporter for the liberal newspaper Asahi Shimbun in May 1987 and for other attacks.

"If you come, we will execute every single anti-Japanese Korean resident in Japan," the letter added.

The letters were postmarked in Nagoya, in central Japan, and delivered in Tokyo today, police said.



Thousands of South Korean students from various universities staged a rally at campus of Chonnam University in Kwangju yesterday to commemorate 10th anniversary of the 1980 Kwangju civil uprising. More than 30,000 took part in the rally. (Reuters wirephoto)



Kohl (second left), Maiziere (left) Waigall (right) and Romberg share a toast after the two states finance ministers signed a treaty on economic union in Bonn. (Reuters wirephoto)

Giant stride to unity

Soviet expert criticises treaty

BONN, May 19 (AP): The two German nations have signed a historic treaty that will soon bind them into a single economic entity and all but formally end their four-decade separation.

The treaty was signed yesterday, just 10 days after the 45th anniversary of Nazi Germany's May 8, 1945 defeat — the seed of Germany's division and of the cold war era.

"What we are living through here is the birth of a free and united Germany," said Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who has aspirations of becoming reunited Germany's first leader.

"This is a historic hour in the life of the German nation," said the West German leader, addressing members of both his cabinet and that of East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere.

Nonetheless, formal unification cannot occur until the thorny question of a united Germany's military allegiance is settled. The Soviet Union flatly rejects NATO membership for the united country.

The United States says the German nation should belong to the Western alliance.

Kohl has hinted he hopes full political unification will come in all-German elections at the end of the year.

Despite Kohl's jubilation, German enthusiasm over the so-called "state treaty" was not unanimous.

West Germany's leftist Greens Party boycotted the ceremony at the government's opulent Palace Schaumburg, charging the treaty will leave East Germans more impoverished.

Neues Forum, the East German activist organisation that started the fall revolution that ended four decades of hardline communist leadership, had a similar assessment.

"Sacrificing all sovereignty, the GDR (East German) government bows to the will of the victors in Bonn, whose power will triumph in a future Germany over the dignity and interests of the GDR populace," Neues Forum said.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, head of West Germany's main opposition Social Democratic Party, said the treaty on economic merger "leaves open a whole series of questions."

Vogel said it is still unclear, for example, how East German-made products can be protected from competition by better-made goods from West Germany.

But the East German government apparently prefers annexation by West Germany's powerful economy to possible economic collapse.

Flanked by Kohl and De Maiziere, the finance ministers of the two nations signed the treaty absorbing East Germany's economy and social services into West Germany's.

An adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday criticised East and West Germany's economic union accord, saying it did not treat the two states as equal partners.

East Germany yesterday toughened visa requirements for Romanians in an effort to stop a flood of refugees from that troubled country.

Meanwhile, the government said it will remove visa requirements for citizens of Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in the interest of European unity, the state news service ADN reported.

EEC foreign ministers' meet

Focus on political union

PARKNASILLA, Ireland, May 19 (AP): European Economic Community foreign ministers met today to thrash out the next step toward their declared goal of closer political integration.

The main proponents of such integration, France and West Germany, are at odds over how to achieve it. Britain, the most sceptical about the idea of political union, adopted a more conciliatory stance ahead of the meeting.

The meeting, in a hotel at Parknasilla, a picturesque village near Killybeggy, is to continue through Sunday under the chairmanship of Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins, Ireland currently holds the rotating presidency of the 12-nation trade bloc.

It was the first meeting of the foreign ministers since the EEC's summit in Dublin on April 28 instructed the ministers to draft proposals for political union in time for the community's next regular summit at the end of June.

The next step would be an inter-governmental conference on political union later this year, running alongside one already planned on economic and monetary integration.

France and West Germany precipitated the decision at the April summit with a joint call for some form of political union. They argued that Western Europeans must move closer because of the rapid changes with the fall of communist governments in Eastern Europe and the impending unification of Germany.

Since the April summit, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has proposed greater powers for the European Parliament, the community's 518-member assembly based in Strasbourg, France.

France wants power centred on the heads of government.

Other notes released Friday suggested North was authorised by other government officials to talk with Noriega about "cleaning up his image."

The meeting took place, the group said, after published reports linked Noriega to drug running.

North's notes of the London meeting, the group said, show discussions about commando activities and the Contra rebels fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Other notes made public suggested that Elliot Abrams, who was the State Department's top official for Central America, may have known more about secret efforts to help the Contras than he has testified.

Meanwhile, a new federal grand jury has begun a criminal inquiry into the Iran-Contra affair expected to focus on mid-level officials in the administration of former president Ronald Reagan, the New York Times said on Saturday.

North diaries raise queries

WASHINGTON, May 19 (UPI): Portions of Oliver North's diaries released Friday reinforced questions about when President Bush, while he was president, Reagan's vice-president, knew the United States was trading arms to Iran for hostages.

They also suggest the government may have tried to get Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega to help the Nicaraguan Contra rebels even after reports of drug running by the military strongman.

However, the 1,209 pages of North's diaries — obtained under a court order by a private group studying the Iran-Contra scandal — were often only cryptic notes, making it impossible to determine exactly what most of the entries mean.

White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater, travelling with Bush in Texas, responded to the disclosures by saying the Iran-Contra affair had been "thoroughly investigated" by both Congress and the special prosecutor's office and, after a cost of perhaps \$50 million, "there's nothing we can add."

The group, the National Security Archive, last week obtained and released about 1,400 pages of North's diaries. It obtained the new pages Thursday night and said about 40 per cent of the information was blacked out by the government for security reasons. The group also estimated that another 200 pages of North diaries are still being withheld.

North, one-time aide in Ronald Reagan's National Security Council, was at the centre of the Iran-Contra scandal, helping to ship arms to Iran in exchange of American hostages and arranging covert aid for the Nicaraguan Contras after Congress had banned formal US help to the rebels.

Included among the pages released Friday were several references to Bush, who was then Reagan's vice-president.

One was from a White House meeting held May 29, 1986, two days after former national security adviser Robert McFarlane completed an unsuccessful trip to Iran, where McFarlane discussed arms shipments and the release of hostages.

In attendance, according to North, were Reagan, Bush, White House chief of staff Donald Regan and McFarlane's replacement at the NSC, John Poindexter.

A North note from the session said: "No further meetings until hostages come out."

Malcolm Byrne of the National Security Archive conceded that no firm conclusion could be drawn from the notation, but added it "suggests that Bush was much closer to the loop" than he has disclosed.

"It suggests that Bush knew earlier (than he has claimed he knew) that this could be arms for hostages," Byrne said.

Bush has said he was "out of the loop" concerning the events that generated the Iran-Contra scandal and did not realise the United States was trading arms for hostages until after the affair became public in late November 1986.

Another reference to Bush was from Nov 25, 1986, when the Iran-Contra scandal was exploding into public view. Under a heading that indicated a call from Poindexter, North noted: "VP calls Peres — a likely reference Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres. There was no other explanation of the notation."

Other notes released Friday were of Sept 22, 1986, meeting North held in London with Noriega. The meeting has been known, although specific details of the discussions have not been revealed.

Some notes released Friday suggested North was authorised by other government officials to talk with Noriega about "cleaning up his image."

The meeting took place, the group said, after published reports linked Noriega to drug running.

North's notes of the London meeting, the group said, show discussions about commando activities and the Contra rebels fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Other notes made public suggested that Elliot Abrams, who was the State Department's top official for Central America, may have known more about secret efforts to help the Contras than he has testified.

Meanwhile, a new federal grand jury has begun a criminal inquiry into the Iran-Contra affair expected to focus on mid-level officials in the administration of former president Ronald Reagan, the New York Times said on Saturday.

Japan environ agencies divided

TOKYO, May 19 (AP): The government's annual report on the environment yesterday gave Japan high marks in energy efficiency and called on it to take the lead in protecting the world's environment.

But reports of strong disagreements during the report's preparation showed that the government has not reached a consensus on its environmental policies.

The environment agency's annual white paper said Japan is the world's most energy-efficient industrialised nation per unit of economic production.

It warned, however, that changes in lifestyle, particularly among younger Japanese, may cause energy consumption to climb.

Already, it said, the average fuel efficiency of new automobiles in Japan has begun to drop as more Japanese buy larger cars.

Deleted

Environmental agency officials said some major portions of early drafts of the report were deleted after "heated discussions" with other agencies, including the powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Foreign Ministry.

One portion deleted concerned the economic impact of measures to reduce global warming, said Hisakazu Kato, director of the environment agency's planning and research division.

"We did do a detailed study of what effects these environmental steps would have on the economy, and found that they would have negligible impact on economic growth," he said.

But MITI has released other studies (concluding) that the world economy would be severely affected. So we are still having discussions about what should be the official government position," he said.

Global warming has been linked to gases such as carbon dioxide released from the burning of fossil fuels and to the shrinkage of the world's tropical rain forests. Many countries have expressed concern that steps to reduce global warming would harm their economies.

For the first time in the report's 22-year history, this year's white paper discusses future energy policy in detail and recommends further conservation by industry and by electric power producers, Kato said.

Stock traders said demand for shares of companies linked to energy conservation surged on the Tokyo stock exchange yesterday as a result of the report.

MITI has been a strong advocate of industrial growth, while the Foreign Ministry has been concerned about frequent overseas criticism of Japan's environmental record in areas such as whaling, driftnet fishing and depletion of rain forests.

"The environment agency is considered an outlaw within the government," Kato said.

Akihito tribute

First to visit Nagasaki

NAGASAKI, May 19 (AP): Emperor Akihito yesterday became the first Japanese monarch to pay tribute at a monument to the 70,000 people who died in the atomic bomb blast that devastated Nagasaki 45 years ago.

A steady rain fell as Akihito, accompanied by Empress Michiko, bowed deeply and placed a bouquet of white flowers on a dark granite cenotaph before the monument.

The royal couple was greeted by loud yells of "Banzai" — a wish for long life — when they arrived at the park.

As they left to visit a hospital for patients suffering from atomic-bomb related illnesses, some of the crowd sang "Kimi Ga Yo," Japan's unofficial national anthem.

Akihito, on the first day of a four-day trip, said that seeing the park and hospital "renewed my thoughts for peace... and prayers for those who still are in pain because of the bomb's effects."

In Nagasaki, where the bomb was dropped on Aug 9, 1945, that pain runs deep. Japan surrendered six days after the bombing.

"I think he has helped heal some of the wounds by coming," said store clerk Sachiko Nagata, a radiation illness sufferer who was seven years old when the bomb was dropped. "But it took too long for him to come to this park."

The Emperor's guide in the Nagasaki area was Mayor Hiroshi Motomura, who was shot last January by an ultra-rightist for saying Akihito's father, the late Emperor Hirohito, bore some of the responsibility for the war.

Motomura, a Roman Catholic, made the comment at a city assembly meeting in December 1988, as Hirohito lay dying of the cancer that would end his life one month later.

The mayor also said Hirohito, now known in Japan as Emperor Showa, could have helped end the war sooner and saved Nagasaki from the bomb.

Though many Japanese share Motomura's opinions, his candour angered rightist fringe groups and for more than a year he endured several death threats.

Japanese rightists represent a small minority but maintain a high profile, dressing in military garb and driving through cities in convoys of armoured, painted trucks blaring march music. They are staunchly nationalist.

Deleted

Environmental agency officials said some major portions of early drafts of the report were deleted after "heated discussions" with other agencies, including the powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Foreign Ministry.

One portion deleted concerned the economic impact of measures to reduce global warming, said Hisakazu Kato, director of the environment agency's planning and research division.

"We did do a detailed study of what effects these environmental steps would have on the economy, and found that they would have negligible impact on economic growth," he said.

But MITI has released other studies (concluding) that the world economy would be severely affected. So we are still having discussions about what should be the official government position," he said.

Global warming has been linked to gases such as carbon dioxide released from the burning of fossil fuels and to the shrinkage of the world's tropical rain forests. Many countries have expressed concern that steps to reduce global warming would harm their economies.

For the first time in the report's 22-year history, this year's white paper discusses future energy policy in detail and recommends further conservation by industry and by electric power producers, Kato said.

Stock traders said demand for shares of companies linked to energy conservation surged on the Tokyo stock exchange yesterday as a result of the report.

MITI has been a strong advocate of industrial growth, while the Foreign Ministry has been concerned about frequent overseas criticism of Japan's environmental record in areas such as whaling, driftnet fishing and depletion of rain forests.

"The environment agency is considered an outlaw within the government," Kato said.

Deleted

Environmental agency officials said some major portions of early drafts of the report were deleted after "heated discussions" with other agencies, including the powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and the Foreign Ministry.

One portion deleted concerned the economic impact of measures to reduce global warming, said Hisakazu Kato, director of the environment agency's planning and research division.

"We did do a detailed study of what effects these environmental steps would have on the economy, and found that they would have negligible impact on economic growth," he said.

But MITI has released other studies (concluding) that the world economy would be severely affected. So we are still having discussions about what should be the official government position," he said.

Global warming has been linked to gases such as carbon dioxide released from the burning of fossil fuels and to the shrinkage of the world's tropical rain forests. Many countries have expressed concern that steps to reduce global warming would harm their economies.

For the first time in the report's 22-year history, this year's white paper discusses future energy policy in detail and recommends further conservation by industry and by electric power producers, Kato said.

Stock traders said demand for shares of companies linked to energy conservation surged on the Tokyo stock exchange yesterday as a result of the report.

MITI has been a strong advocate of industrial growth, while the Foreign Ministry has been concerned about frequent overseas criticism of Japan's environmental record in areas such as whaling, driftnet fishing and depletion of rain forests.

"The environment agency is considered an outlaw within the government," Kato said.

Vietnamese salute Ho but fail to realise his vision of bigger, beautiful Vietnam

BANGKOK, May 19 (AP): Vietnam today saluted Ho Chi Minh, whose communists drove out the Americans and seized power after his death but failed to realise his vision of a "bigger and more beautiful" postwar Vietnam.

Abandoning its usual news programme, the official Voice of Vietnam radio devoted a half-hour tribute to "Uncle Ho" on the centenary of his birth. It played music and songs to the "great national hero," and a recording of Ho's declaration of the founding of communist North Vietnam in September 1945, which the radio called the most emotional

moment in his life.

Nation-wide celebrations today were to include cultural festivals, parades, mass meetings and the unveiling of memorials to the revolutionary hero, the official media has reported.

A US private humanitarian agency, the International Mission of Hope, has said it will open a health clinic today at the wartime massacre site of My Lai village to coincide with the anniversary.

In the worst single American atrocity in the war, US troops in March 1968 killed 504 people in the central Vietnam hamlet, according to official Viet-

namese count.

Under the leadership of the frail-looking Ho, the communists battled the French, Japanese and Americans for half a century. They gained victory in April 1975, but now battle growing economic woes and political isolation, largely because of the continuing war that Vietnam sparked in Cambodia with a late 1978 invasion.

In a meeting in Hanoi yesterday to mark the Ho anniversary, Vietnamese Communist Party chief Nguyen Van Linh affirmed a commitment to socialism despite the crisis that it faces abroad, the official

Vietnam news agency said.

The report, seen here today, said the meeting was attended by senior delegations from Vietnam's close allies — the Soviet Union, Laos and Cambodia — and from India, the only major non-communist country friendly to Hanoi.

Linh said Vietnam reforms meant not changing Ho's objectives of national liberation and communism, but finding better ways to reach them. Linh's 3-year-old administration has made Western-style economic changes but avoided substantial political reforms.

Other notes made public suggested that Elliot Abrams, who was the State Department's top official for Central America, may have known more about secret efforts to help the Contras than he has testified.

Meanwhile, a new federal grand jury has begun a criminal inquiry into the Iran-Contra affair expected to focus on mid-level officials in the administration of former president Ronald Reagan, the New York Times said on Saturday.

INTERNATIONAL

Alliance supports Walesa presidency

WARSAW, May 19, (AP): A close adviser to Lech Walesa has formed a new political alliance and declared support for the Solidarity leader as president of Poland.

The centre alliance favours speeding up of economic and political reform and an end to the presidency of former Communist Party chief Wojciech Jaruzelski, according to a founding declaration issued this week.

"The acceleration we are proposing is to do away with the remnants of the old system," Senator Jaroslaw Kaczynski, editor of the weekly *Tygodnik Solidarnosc* and a member of Walesa's inner circle, said yesterday.

The new coalition is a manifestation of the dispute brewing between Walesa and the Solidarity-dominated government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki over the pace of reforms.

The government has launched an ambitious top-to-bottom overhaul of the socialist economic system. But Walesa has pressed for an even faster cleansing of the old communist regime's personnel and policies from state enterprises and bureaucracies.

At the heart of the debate is the April 1989 accord signed following the historic negotiations between the then-communist authorities and Solidarity. It provided for unprecedented political, economic and trade union freedoms as well as partially democratic parliamentary elections that led to the unanticipated takeover of the government by Solidarity.

Walesa has fuelled the debate with his interest in the presidency and his criticism, recently more strident, of the Mazowiecki government. Walesa's statements have been equivocal — he says the point is to pressure quicker change and avoid an ebb in public support for the difficult reforms — but few around him doubt he is running for president.

Polish police said yesterday that Poland might start spying on the Soviet Union, while East Germany has broken off its intelligence co-operation with Warsaw in advance of unification with West Germany.

Lithuania rejects Moscow's request

Gorby demands only suspension of declaration

MOSCOW, May 19, (AP): Lithuania's prime minister today rejected Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's request that the Baltic republic suspend its declaration of independence.

In a meeting with Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene on Thursday, Gorbachev said the Kremlin no longer demanded that Lithuania revoke its declaration of independence, but rather wanted it suspended.

Prunskiene said such a suspension would be too risky, as it would revert Lithuania to being under Moscow's control again, Lithuanian

parliamentary spokesman Ed Tuskenis said today. Prunskiene, Vice-President Ceslovas Stankevicius and Deputy Prime Minister Bronius Kuzmickas addressed an emergency session of Lithuania's supreme council for about three hours in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, said parliamentary spokeswoman Rita Dapkus. Prunskiene told the lawmakers that in her meeting yesterday with Gorbachev and Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet leader had changed his demands "from revocation to suspension" of the republic's March 14 declaration of independence, Tuskenis said.

What remains unclear is whether a suspension of the declaration would mean that Lithuania would still be subject to Soviet laws, the spokesman quoted the prime minister as saying.

Since March 11 and throughout a subsequent economic embargo on oil, natural gas and other key materials imposed on the republic by Gorbachev, Lithuanian officials have refused to roll back on the declaration. They have said that other issues, such as pro-independence laws, may be negotiated.

Lawmakers today were to consider compromise measures that would keep Lithuania in the Soviet defence system, address border issues and outline a transition period to full independence.

The measures are contingent, however, on the Kremlin beginning negotiations with Lithuania.

Ms Dapkus said the lawmakers were not expected to take any immediate action today.

Prunskiene told reporters in Moscow, before returning to Vilnius yesterday that Gorbachev and Ryzhkov had hinted that stricter economic measures would be taken against Lithuania "if we don't behave more rationally." She said the Soviets did not elaborate.

Prunskiene's meeting with Gorbachev yesterday marked the first time the Soviet President has met with Baltic officials to discuss their independence drive.

Gorbachev told reporters: "Through the constitutional process, we are ready to consider any possibility, any question." In a meeting with Prunskiene yesterday, US Secretary of State James A. Baker III urged her to consider suspending the declaration, saying that a "suspension does not mean an annulment," Stankevicius said.

Prunskiene told reporters that her meeting with Baker gave Lithuania a boost.

"I became convinced again that the USA as well as other governments support the restoration of independence and the path we are taking," she said at the US ambassador's residence, where she met with Baker.

Baker said the United States hoped that a dialogue could continue between the Kremlin and Lithuanian officials.

Latvia and Estonia, two other republics bordering the Baltic sea, are also making bids for independence from the Soviet Union, but the Kremlin has not imposed economic sanctions on them.

A crowd of about 200 people who support independence gathered outside the parliament building in Vilnius during the session to prevent anti-secessionists from entering, Dapkus said.

Pro-Moscow crowds had tried to enter parliament buildings in Estonia and Latvia on Tuesday before being stopped, either by volunteers or local police.

Gorbachev's nominee for President of the Russian Republic yesterday called for "sovereignty" from the Soviet Union.

"Life has brought us to this hard conclusion after much suffering. Radical resolution of the problems standing before the republic can be found only in its full economic and political sovereignty," said Alexander Vlasov, who is now Premier of Russia, the largest Soviet republic.

A coalition of US veterans and Lithuanian groups called yesterday for a boycott of Pepsi products because of a new multi-billion contract between Pepsi and the Soviet Union.

The real focus of "Hidden Agenda" is Britain's secret service, shown resorting to murder in a bid to subvert a government it does not support. Sheltering behind the official secrets act, it answers to no one.

"We claim to be a democracy but people are doing things on our behalf which are intolerable," said Loach.

"We've all been so keen recently to welcome the countries of Eastern Europe into freedom. If they look at the way the British intelligence services work they might think twice about that freedom."

Small and quietly-spoken, Loach hardly fits the role of establishment rebel. In fact he is an experienced trouble-stirrer who has had four television documentaries about trade unions rejected and is



Soviet air force pilot shows the V-sign before he leaves for home. The Soviets withdrew an air force regiment in Dobruja yesterday. The regiment includes 39 warplanes MiG-23 and MiG-27 (Reuters wirephoto)

Gears up for Gorby

San Francisco Bay area in a fog

SAN FRANCISCO, May 19, (AP): A new kind of fog shrouds the city by the bay.

Uncertainty about the itinerary of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on his visit to the San Francisco Bay area next month is causing headaches among those trying to plan anything from security to sightseeing.

Anxious hosts, reporters and would-be hawkers are among those scrambling to prepare for the two-day tour. They have little information.

About all that's known is that Gorbachev will arrive in

San Francisco on June 3 and visit Stanford University for at least two hours the next day.

"Will it be a sit-down dinner or a speech? No one knows," Stanford spokeswoman Kathy O'Toole said Thursday.

Planned luncheon with former president Ronald Reagan and area business leaders seems most likely to take place June 4, said Harry Oberlin, who heads the international programme of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

Prunskiene's meeting with Baker gave Lithuania a boost.

"I became convinced again that the USA as well as other governments support the restoration of independence and the path we are taking," she said at the US ambassador's residence, where she met with Baker.

Baker said the United States hoped that a dialogue could continue between the Kremlin and Lithuanian officials.

Latvia and Estonia, two other republics bordering the Baltic sea, are also making bids for independence from the Soviet Union, but the Kremlin has not imposed economic sanctions on them.

A crowd of about 200 people who support independence gathered outside the parliament building in Vilnius during the session to prevent anti-secessionists from entering, Dapkus said.

Pro-Moscow crowds had tried to enter parliament buildings in Estonia and Latvia on Tuesday before being stopped, either by volunteers or local police.

Gorbachev's nominee for President of the Russian Republic yesterday called for "sovereignty" from the Soviet Union.

"Life has brought us to this hard conclusion after much suffering. Radical resolution of the problems standing before the republic can be found only in its full economic and political sovereignty," said Alexander Vlasov, who is now Premier of Russia, the largest Soviet republic.

A coalition of US veterans and Lithuanian groups called yesterday for a boycott of Pepsi products because of a new multi-billion contract between Pepsi and the Soviet Union.

The real focus of "Hidden Agenda" is Britain's secret service, shown resorting to murder in a bid to subvert a government it does not support. Sheltering behind the official secrets act, it answers to no one.

"We claim to be a democracy but people are doing things on our behalf which are intolerable," said Loach.

"We've all been so keen recently to welcome the countries of Eastern Europe into freedom. If they look at the way the British intelligence services work they might think twice about that freedom."

Small and quietly-spoken, Loach hardly fits the role of establishment rebel. In fact he is an experienced trouble-stirrer who has had four television documentaries about trade unions rejected and is

probably best known for "Cathy Come Home," a study of homelessness.

In "Hidden Agenda" an American civil rights campaigner is shot by Northern Ireland's security forces in highly suspicious circumstances.

A British detective sent to investigate uncovers a secret service plot to destabilise the Labour government of the 1970s and bring the Conservatives to power.

The story is based on a succession of scandals which have emerged in Britain in recent years. Loach says the starting point was the Stalker affair, in which Manchester policeman John Stalker was pulled off an investigation into an alleged shoot-to-kill policy by security forces in Northern Ireland.



Yelling and baring

One of the "Golden" anti-communist demonstrators living in the tent city in University Square in Bucharest yells as he bares his chest to a heavy thunderstorm on Friday. Romanian presidential elections are scheduled for May 20. (Reuters wirephoto)

NSF heads for victory

Romanian polls

BUCHAREST, May 19, (Reuters): Romania's ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) is heading for a resounding victory tomorrow in the country's first free elections for more than half a century, according to an official opinion poll published today.

The elections, five months after the bloody overthrow of communist ruler Nicolae Ceausescu, follow a campaign marked by violence and intimidation that has raised Western concern about Romania's path from dictatorship to democracy.

The latest poll by the Davis Institute, published by the official Romsprems news agency, forecast interim head of state and NSF leader Ion Iliescu would win 70 percent of votes in a three-way race for seats in a two-chamber parliament.

Iliescu, a long-time former Ceausescu associate, has offered to form a broad coalition after the elections to cure Romania's crippling economic ills but has had to fend off accusations that the NSF wants to lead the country to a new form of communism.

"Our anti-communist revolt on December 22 was stolen by neo-communists who shielded behind democracy but are in fact former members of the old ruling nomenclature (elite)," leading dissident Doina Cornea told Reuters.

Her view has been echoed by both Iliescu's opponents for the presidency, National Liberal Party leader Radu Campeanu and Romanian-British businessman tycoon Ion Ratiu of the National Peasants Party.

Both men returned from lengthy exile after Ceausescu's execution.

Romanian presidential candidate Ion Ratiu has appealed to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to bring pressure to bear to curb any abuse in his country's first free elections in 50 years.

Both men returned from lengthy exile after Ceausescu's execution.

Romanian presidential candidate Ion Ratiu has appealed to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to bring pressure to bear to curb any abuse in his country's first free elections in 50 years.

Both men returned from lengthy exile after Ceausescu's execution.

Romanian presidential candidate Ion Ratiu has appealed to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to bring pressure to bear to curb any abuse in his country's first free elections in 50 years.

Both men returned from lengthy exile after Ceausescu's execution.

Romanian presidential candidate Ion Ratiu has appealed to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to bring pressure to bear to curb any abuse in his country's first free elections in 50 years.

Both men returned from lengthy exile after Ceausescu's execution.

Romanian presidential candidate Ion Ratiu has appealed to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to bring pressure to bear to curb any abuse in his country's first free elections in 50 years.

Lynch wins wider praise

CANNES, May 19, (Reuters): American film director David Lynch, once little more than a cult hero with a penchant for explicit sex and violence, won wider international recognition today at a premiere of his latest film.

Lynch, admired by film buffs since making the disturbing "Eraserhead" in 1976 but unknown to the wider public, received the strongest applause of the Cannes film festival to date for his film "Wild At Heart".

Critics now predict he will be the talent to watch in coming years.

"Wild At Heart," completed just days before the screening

and brought to France crammed unceremoniously under the east's plane seats, tells the story of Sailor and Peanut, two feckless lovers running from the law.

It is essentially a road movie, but set in a surreal world where violence threatens to break out at any moment.

Most are peopled by porn stars and sadomasochists, while the family home is a cover for rape and murder.

Gritty reality — vomit drying a carpet, cockroaches crawling through a pair of underpants — provides a backdrop for a collection of fairyland characters.

The wicked witch, in the shape of Peanut's mother, tries to force the lovers apart, but a kindly fairy makes sure they find each other again.

The level of explicit sex and violence in Lynch's films has stirred controversy in the past and "Wild At Heart" is unlikely to be an exception.

There are stomach-churning moments of violence including a scene where actor Willem Dafoe, near-unrecognisable in his role as a perverted killer, blows his own head off with a shotgun.

But unlike "Blue Velvet," where Lynch never let the tension drop, the horror in "Wild At Heart" is tempered with black humour. The film is one of Lynch's funniest and also has an exuberantly happy ending.

Lynch, who politely side-stepped questions about the origin of his grotesque vision of small-town America, told journalists he had originally planned a much more violent film.

Several scenes were cut when audiences at the first test screenings walked out.

"The violence was breaking the film. There is a magical line you can go up against. You have to feel that line and if you cross it you're in trouble," he said.

Lynch said he anticipated problems in the United States, where he fears the film will be restricted "X" certificate and not the "R" certificate specified in his contract and needed to draw large audiences.

"But there are advantages to the ratings system. Maybe it's not a movie for everyone," he acknowledged.

Lynch is also an accomplished painter and his stories are told with visual images rather than words. In "Wild At Heart," fire is the oft-repeated image, whether it is a match rasping into life, a car exploding or house going up in flames.

"Film has a fantastic way of portraying abstractions. To articulate things and put them into words becomes sort of a drag," Lynch said.

He was accompanied to Cannes by a cast of actors who included plenty of his old favourites: Laura Dern, who plays Peanut, and the beautiful Isabella Rossellini, who plays hired killer Perdita Durango, both starred in "Blue Velvet."

Nicolas Cage is a newcomer in his role as Sailor.

East, West mingle in glitter

'It's an amazing spectacle', says Soviet director

CANNES, May 19, (AP): The large contingent of Eastern European film professionals making their first pilgrimage to Cannes are getting a first-hand look at the glitter and hype which surround a major Western film festival.

"It's an amazing spectacle," said Soviet director Pavel Lungin, whose first film, "Taxi Blues," is competing for the coveted Golden Palm award.

"My only problem is renting a tuxedo. It will make me look ridiculous," he said.

During the 12-day festival, which ends Monday, Cannes' normal population of 72,000 has swelled by at least 25,000. The transients include powerful producers, glamorous stars, dedicated fans, even an ambitious team of Soviets who gave a press breakfast at the luxury Carlton Hotel to publicise the business side of the Soviet film industry.

The sights and sounds of the festival can be astonishing in their contrasts. Arnold Schwarzenegger is mobbed by paparazzi as he tangoes at poolside with Sylvester Stallone. Gypsies beg in front of posh cafes.

Street performers in silver robo-cop costumes, ambulating musicians and kids selling roses compete for attention and francs in the sunshine or moonlight along the sidewalks.

Dozens of films are shown daily in the mammoth harbour-side Palais des Festivals, including at least two entries in competition for the top award, the Golden Palm.

Each evening crowds gather to salute their favourite stars in evening dress entering the day's gala film showing. This is usually followed by an elaborate dinner in a tent behind the palace, complete with greenery and fountain.

"Among those cheered recently were Lauren Bacall and Anthony Quinn, presently filming down the coast, and actress Anjelica Huston, who is on the 10-member festival jury presided over by director Bernardo Bertolucci.

The stars are well-protected from pickpockets and other



Wild at Heart

American director David Lynch (second left) poses with actors (from left) Isabella Rossellini, Laura Dern, Diana Ledy, Willem Dafoe and Nicolas Cage after the screening of their film "Wild At Heart" in competition at the 43rd international film festival in Cannes yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

'New Wave' baffles critics

CANNES, May 19, (AP): "New Wave," an intellectual reversion on the nature of love and life by film maverick Jean-Luc Godard, baffled critics yesterday with garbled, superposed lines of dialogue borrowed from famous books.

Critics dubbed the experience "Waiting For Godard," after Samuel Beckett's "Waiting For Godot," in which Godot never shows up.

Godard, founder of new wave cinema and director of the 1960 hit "Breathless," told a news conference he had "an idea, but had to fill up the film. So we pillaged libraries."

A wordy piece for intellectuals (Godard does not work for an audience seeking clear-cut plots), the movie abounds with quotes gathered from Hemingway, Gide,

Dostoevski, Seneca and others.

Some of the film's maxims and sentences were repeated "at least five times," Godard noted. "After a while you should get the picture."

Godard did not explain the film's title, a reference to the film genre he founded in the 1960s in reaction to formulaic Hollywood spectacles and dramas.

"I'm coming back to the scene of the crime of passion," he said cryptically.

Visually striking, "New Wave" stars blond-haired Domitiana Giordano and Alain Delon. It was filmed in and around a Swiss lake and mansion at all seasons of the year. "A rich setting much like the one I grew up in," the Swiss-born director said.

Vodka- tonic costing about \$11 at a top hotel terrace, one wonders.

Many of those in the know head for the elegant Hotel du Cap at nearby Cap d'Antibes, refuge for wealthy stars and producers. The hotel has a terrace restaurant and pool perched above the rocks overlooking the Mediterranean.

Loach's 'Hidden Agenda' called pro-IRA film

CANNES, May 19, (Reuters): British director Ken Loach remains unruffled when he is asked whether his controversial new film "Hidden Agenda" favours the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

He has heard the accusation before, long before this film about the troubles in Northern Ireland was premiered at the Cannes film festival on Wednesday night.

"The IRA just doesn't come into the film, nor does the ordinary soldier. The problem is, people bring their preconceptions to it, they're on the lookout for it to be pro-IRA," he said in an interview.

IRA guerrillas are fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

The real focus of "Hidden Agenda" is Britain's secret service, shown resorting to murder in a bid to subvert a government it does not support. Sheltering behind the official secrets act, it answers to no one.

"We claim to be a democracy but people are doing things on our behalf which are intolerable," said Loach.

"We've all been so keen recently to welcome the countries of Eastern Europe into freedom. If they look at the way the British intelligence services work they might think twice about that freedom."

Small and quietly-spoken, Loach hardly fits the role of establishment rebel. In fact he is an experienced trouble-stirrer who has had four television documentaries about trade unions rejected and is

probably best known for "Cathy Come Home," a study of homelessness.

In "Hidden Agenda" an American civil rights campaigner is shot by Northern Ireland's security forces in highly suspicious circumstances.

A British detective sent to investigate uncovers a secret service plot to destabilise the Labour government of the 1970s and bring the Conservatives to power.

The story is based on a succession of scandals which have emerged in Britain in recent years. Loach says the starting point was the Stalker affair, in which Manchester policeman John Stalker was pulled off an investigation into an alleged shoot-to-kill policy by security forces in Northern Ireland.

INTERNATIONAL/MIDEAST

Goncz confers with Bush

WASHINGTON, May 19, (AP): Hungary's Acting President Arpad Goncz said President George Bush assured him last morning he would discuss Soviet troop withdrawals from Eastern Europe during the upcoming US-Soviet summit in Washington.

Goncz said Bush also asked his opinion during the hurriedly scheduled Oval Office meeting on the situation in Lithuania, which appears to be tuning down its effort to secede from the Soviet Union.

He said he told Bush, "the unfolding processes in the Baltic states simply cannot be reversed any more."

The two leaders talked as Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Lithuanian officials appeared to be making progress on a dialogue to resolve the dispute.

As to Soviet presence in East Europe, Goncz told reporters outside the White House that he and Bush "are in full agreement that the Soviet troop withdrawal from Czechoslovakia and Hungary and other countries of the region should proceed as concluded in the different bilateral agreements. And we also agreed that this topic would be discussed at the summit."

The two presidents met as Goncz conducted an unofficial visit to the United States, during which he was meeting with various other people. The White House made known its willingness to meet with Goncz, but did not get a firm date from the Hungarians until late, said spokesman Roman Popadiuk.

Goncz said he was seeking continued US support and financial assistance for his country's new democracy, as well as support from international financial institutions such as the World Bank.

Bulgarian: Deposed Bulgarian King Simeon II yesterday invited international observers to attend his country's June elections to assure that people are not afraid to vote in the first free balloting in 55 years.

Foreign observers would "legitimise the cleanliness of these elections and would encourage people to vote, they won't be frightened," said the 53-year-old monarch, who has been living in exile in Madrid for more than four decades.

"It will also protect the government from charges that it was trying to rig anything," he told reporters at a news conference at the Foreign Press Association.

The king's comments came a day after Bulgaria invited representatives from parliaments in Europe and the Soviet Union and from the US Congress to observe the elections.

Simeon II said he hoped for a huge turnout "to show that our people are just as keen as anyone else in Europe to determine their own future. I'd like to see these elections come off well, in a democratic and dignified manner."

He declined to endorse any of the candidates or throw his support behind any party. "After so long of being told what to do, (Bulgarians) should have an opportunity to feel they are making their own choices," he said.

The king denied reports in the Bulgarian press that he would be returning to his country in late May. Unlike King Michael I of Romania who was ready to return as head of a constitutional monarchy the day after Nicolae Ceausescu was executed, Simeon said he was in no rush.

Czechoslovakia: A leader of the Christian Democratic Movement has charged President Václav Havel with violating ethics in the campaign for next month's elections, the state news agency CTK said yesterday.

The charges centred on Havel's trip to Slovakia Wednesday and Thursday. In addition, at a nationally televised Prague rally Thursday night, Havel openly endorsed candidates of the Civic Forum Movement over dominating government.

Havel helped found Civic Forum last November. As president, he had pledged to take a non-partisan stance in the campaign for the June 8-9 elections.

Civic Forum and its partner in Slovakia, public against violence, gained massive popular support to oust the communists from power last December.

But it faces a strong challenge in the elections, particularly from a centre-right Christian Democratic Alliance that is showing strongly in rural, heavily Roman Catholic Slovakia.

Ivan Carnogursky, a leader of Slovakia's Christian Democratic Movement, addressed a letter to Havel on Wednesday objecting to his trip through the region this week as a "breach of election ethics," CTK said.

Fundamentalists to boycott polls

TUNIS, May 19, (Reuters): Tunisia's Islamic fundamentalist movement Al Nahdha will boycott municipal elections to be held on June 10, the movement said in a statement today.

The centre-left Socialist Democrats movement and the Communist Party have already announced they will not contest the elections, saying they are not satisfied the poll will be honest.

The Islamic Movement said it would not take part because the ruling party dominates the administration and its neutrality was not guaranteed.

In April last year the Nahdha, which is not legally recognised, contested legislative elections with independent candidates and obtained 10 per cent of the vote.

Shiite battles rock W. Beirut

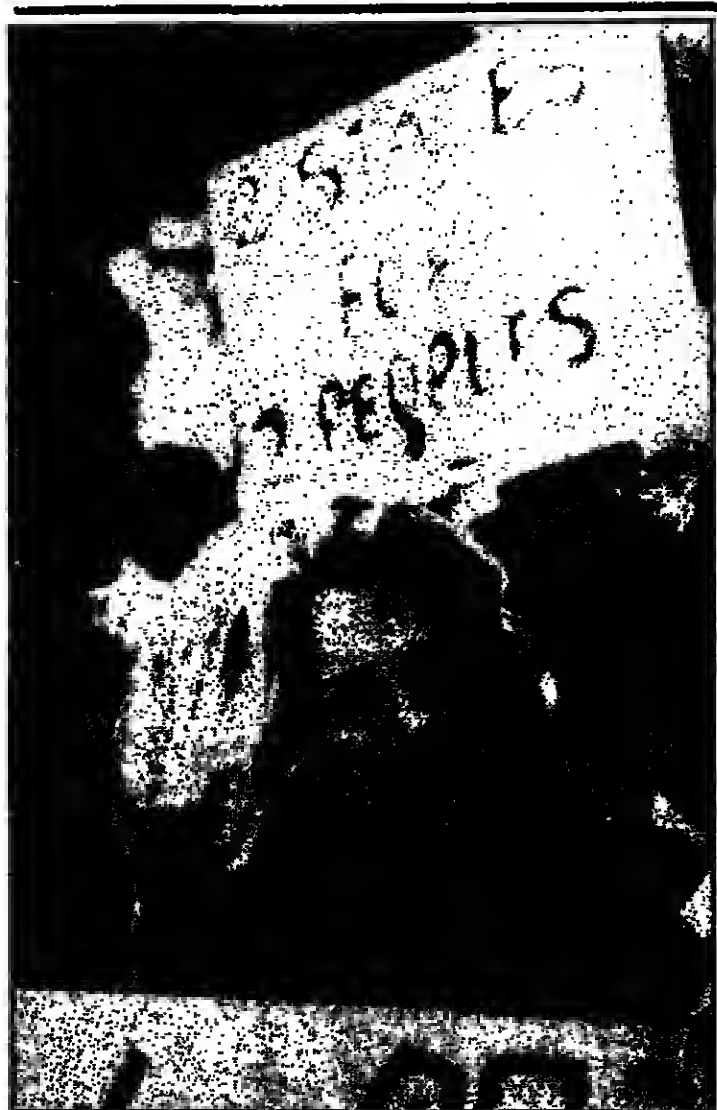
Christian truce holds

BEIRUT, May 19, (AP): Rival Shiite Muslim militia factions allied with Syria and Iran fought street battles in West Beirut today as a ceasefire reportedly mediated by Iraq appeared holding in the Christian enclave.

Police said six people were wounded in the sudden outbreak of violence between the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, and the Syrian-backed Amal militia.

The fighting engulfed West Beirut's densely populated neighbourhoods of Bourj Abu-Haidar, Musaitbeh, and Nuwairi, where the Iranian embassy is located.

The battles erupted at 4 pm (1300 GMT). Panicky motorists abandoned their cars to take cover in nearby buildings. Hundreds of families huddled in basements and bomb shelters as the two sides blasted each other's positions with mortars, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades.



Students protest

Israeli (front) and Arab students mingle yesterday in front of a placard reading "2 states for 2 peoples" during a joint Palestinian-Israeli demonstration by about 100 students protesting the continued closure of West Bank universities. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Parliament illegal'

CAIRO, May 19, (Agencies): An Egyptian court ruled today that the country's parliament had been illegally elected and an opposition lawyer said fresh voting was necessary.

The Supreme Constitutional Court, in a ruling reported by the Middle East News Agency, said the government had improperly introduced electoral party lists in the last election in 1987.

However, the court said all legislation passed by the assembly during the three years was valid nonetheless. "It means the parliament must be dissolved and a new one elected," lawyer Ahmed Nasser, a member of the opposition Wafd party, said.

The ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) controls and overwhims 350 seats in the 448-member assembly.

In today's ruling, court president Mamdouh Mustafa Hassan said: "Since the people's assembly elections were held... unconstitutional by the court in the present case, this ruling necessarily means that the composition of the assembly has been null since it was elected."

dissoled and a new one elected," lawyer Ahmed Nasser, a member of the opposition Wafd party, said.

The ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) controls and overwhims 350 seats in the 448-member assembly.

In today's ruling, court president Mamdouh Mustafa Hassan said: "Since the people's assembly elections were held... unconstitutional by the court in the present case, this ruling necessarily means that the composition of the assembly has been null since it was elected."

dissoled and a new one elected," lawyer Ahmed Nasser, a member of the opposition Wafd party, said.

The ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) controls and overwhims 350 seats in the 448-member assembly.

In today's ruling, court president Mamdouh Mustafa Hassan said: "Since the people's assembly elections were held... unconstitutional by the court in the present case, this ruling necessarily means that the composition of the assembly has been null since it was elected."

dissoled and a new one elected," lawyer Ahmed Nasser, a member of the opposition Wafd party, said.

The ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) controls and overwhims 350 seats in the 448-member assembly.

In today's ruling, court president Mamdouh Mustafa Hassan said: "Since the people's assembly elections were held... unconstitutional by the court in the present case, this ruling necessarily means that the composition of the assembly has been null since it was elected."

dissoled and a new one elected," lawyer Ahmed Nasser, a member of the opposition Wafd party, said.

The ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) controls and overwhims 350 seats in the 448-member assembly.

Voice of the Nation, a Muslim-run radio station based in Bourj Abu-Haidar, interrupted programming to report that a school in the district was burning. It appealed to civil defense rescuers to dispatch fire engines to the scene.

It said the command of Syrian troops in charge of security in West Beirut was holding contacts with the two sides seeking to arrange a ceasefire.

It was not clear what touched off the battles, but a Hezbollah statement accused Amal militiamen of firing rocket propelled grenades at Hezbollah militiamen.

Amal and Hezbollah have been locked since May 1987, in a struggle for mastery of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiites who make up the largest single sect in the country.

At least 1,041 people have been killed and 3,076 wounded in intermittent Amal-Hezbollah clashes in Beirut and South Lebanon in the past three years.

Police said there were occasional outbreaks of sniper fire between rebel Gen Michel Aoun's troops and Lebanese Forces militiamen of his rival, Christian leader Samir Geagea, in East Beirut and the surrounding hinterland.

But, they said, there were no serious confrontations or casualties.

Despite the hull in the Christian enclave, security sources said truck loads of ammunition sent by pro-Syrian factions were rolling down the central mountains into Aoun's beleaguered Meiti province.

The ammunition was mainly for his Soviet-designed 130mm Howitzer batteries, the sources said, insisting on anonymity.

One source explained that Syria "is not dealing directly" with Aoun, but that its surrogates were transporting the ammunition to the army officer who last year fought the Syrians for six months in what he called a war of liberation.

The pro-Syrian groups involved in the operation, the source said, were the Marada, or giants, militia, of former President Suleiman Franjeh, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party and Elie Hobeika's breakaway Lebanese Forces.

Each of these factions has a longstanding blood feud with Geagea.

Sutherland is seriously ill

BEIRUT, May 19, (UPI): The Lebanese magazine that broke the US arms-for-hostage story reported today that US captive Thomas Sutherland is seriously ill and that negotiations were under way to free Anglican envoy Terry Waite and three other hostages.

Also today, the Shiite Amal indicated they would return the remains of two Israeli soldiers killed by Muslim rebels in southern Lebanon years ago if Israel releases some 400 Arab prisoners.

The Ash Shira magazine said Sutherland, who was kidnapped five years ago, is seriously ill and would be among the first US captives freed in any future deals involving Americans.

Sutherland, 63, the dean of American University of Beirut's agricultural school, was kidnapped June 9, 1985 in Muslim West Beirut. The Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

Two US hostages, Robert Pollard and Frank Reed, were released separately last month after more than three years in captivity. Pollard later had his voice box removed after medical examination revealed he had throat cancer for at least a year.

Ash Shira reported contacts were under way to free three Britons, including Waite, and Irish hostage Brian Keenan.

The magazine said the negotiations involving the three

Syria criticises Britain

DAMASCUS, May 19, (AP): Syria's information minister said today that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher lacked interest in solving the problem of British hostages held in Lebanon.

Minister Mohammad Salman used the issue to slam the British government for making it difficult for Syrian journalists to enter Britain, and said Syria would retaliate.

"In spite of the efforts displayed continuously by Syria to secure the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon, it seems that the government of Mrs Thatcher is not interested in the fate of British hostages, since it has not established any dialogue or contact with the concerned Syrian authorities," the minister said.

Britain broke relations with Syria in 1986 after its intelligence services were linked to an effort by Nizar Handawi to plant a bomb on board a London-Tel Aviv flight.

released separately last month after more than three years in captivity. Pollard later had his voice box removed after medical examination revealed he had throat cancer for at least a year.

Ash Shira reported contacts were under way to free three Britons, including Waite, and Irish hostage Brian Keenan.

The magazine said the negotiations involving the three

released separately last month after more than three years in captivity. Pollard later had his voice box removed after medical examination revealed he had throat cancer for at least a year.

Ash Shira reported contacts were under way to free three Britons, including Waite, and Irish hostage Brian Keenan.

The magazine said the negotiations involving the three

released separately last month after more than three years in captivity. Pollard later had his voice box removed after medical examination revealed he had throat cancer for at least a year.

Ash Shira reported contacts were under way to free three Britons, including Waite, and Irish hostage Brian Keenan.

'Khaddafi rule will end soon'

Pretender to Libyan throne Idris claims

WASHINGTON, May 19, (AP): A pretender to the Libyan throne said yesterday that strongman Muammar Khaddafi will soon be overthrown.

Prince Idris Al Sanusi has been meeting with US officials and businessmen to introduce himself as Libya's next leader.

Prince Idris, whose great uncle, King Idris I, was overthrown by Khaddafi in 1969, has been touring other world capitals with a similar message.

Idris, whose father tried unsuccessfully to topple Khaddafi twice, said in an interview that he has an underground organisation of

loyalists within Libya who support his return. Information gleaned from the group indicates that top military officials close to Khaddafi are ready to depose him said Idris.

There have been periodic reports during Khaddafi's 21-year rule that the eccentric leader was facing coups. But Western and Arab diplomats in Tripoli see no indication that Khaddafi is now in trouble. Idris could also face a challenge from various other exiled opposition groups, who have failed to mount a serious threat to Khaddafi partly because of in-fighting.

Idris said Khaddafi has been increasingly

isolated in recent months by a decline in support from the Soviet Union, and from East Germany and other East European governments which have since fallen.

Once European governments understand that there is a viable alternative to Khaddafi, Idris said, they too will isolate him and give Libyans the impetus to revolt.

His message to the international business community, which has substantial investments in Libyan oil fields, is to refrain from interfering in a revolt against Khaddafi, Idris said.

Mandela slams bombing of Libya

TRIPOLI, May 19, (Agencies): African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, saying, "we consider ourselves comrades in arms," thanked Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi yesterday for military training he gave ANC fighter and condemned the 1986 US air raids on Libya.

About 3,000 cheering students greeted Mandela when he arrived in Tripoli from Algiers last afternoon as part of an African tour he is talking with his wife, Winnie.

The anti-apartheid leader was whisked to Khaddafi's heloan test residence inside the heavily armed Bab el Aziza barracks in the North African capital.

"This is a very unbelievable moment," Mandela, dressed in a dark gray suit, told the Libyan strongman, who was wearing traditional white Arab robes laced with gold and a white turban.

"You have given military training to South Africans who wanted to obtain their liberation through armed struggle," Mandela said after embracing Khaddafi outside his tent. "In our situation, as in other countries, an armed struggle is one of the most effective ways for fighting for political change in our country."

Your readiness to provide us with the facilities of forming an army of liberation indicated your commitment to the fight for peace and human rights in the world," Mandela said. "We consider ourselves comrades in arms."

Mandela's visit was a diplomatic triumph for Khaddafi, who has made support of liberation movements from around the world a major plank of his controversial foreign policy since he seized power in a bloodless coup in 1969.

Diplomats say Libyan officials regard Mandela's visit as a triumph symbol of Libyan policy that will considerably boost Tripoli's prestige in the African world.

On the way to the meeting with Khaddafi, Libyan officials stopped and showed Mandela the ruins of Khaddafi's former residence, bombed by the United States April 15, 1986, in retaliation for terrorist attacks allegedly sponsored by the Libyan strongman.

Mandela insisted on seeing every room in the building, which was littered with bomb shrapnel and wreckage from a downed US air force plane.

"The Americans wanted to wipe out the whole family," Mandela said in apparent wonder.

Later, he told Khaddafi: "We have just seen the destruction that was caused by the American bombings in 1986. It seems to us that, whatever the differences that exist between nations, between human beings, it is unacceptable for anyone to try an attempt on an opponent and his family."

"It seemed to us that this was an operation with a specific intention to kill you. We were very happy to find that you had escaped and regret very much about the death of a child," Mandela said.

Khaddafi told the South African leader that "we are in the same trench and we fight one common enemy."

Mandela, released from a South African jail three months ago after 28 years as a political prisoner, has agreed to write his memoirs for Little, Brown and Company, the US publisher has announced.



Muammar Khaddafi (left) greets African National Congress Deputy President Nelson Mandela on Friday upon arrival at Khaddafi's former residence in Tripoli wrecked by a US air raid in 1986. (Reuters wirephoto)

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Cairo frees 11: Police freed 11 people held for questioning after a Muslim fundamentalist protest outside a Cairo mosque yesterday, security sources said on Saturday.

They said the detainees were released after it was established they were not linked with scuffles between police and members of a crowd several hundred strong in central Cairo.

According to worshippers, the crowd was angry because a Muslim sheikh was banned from preaching after he spoke out the previous week against government-ordered price increases.

Israel to obtain access: Using the threat of Iraqi missiles as a pretext, Israel will soon obtain access to an American spy satellite, it was reported in Paris, Saturday.

According to a brief item in the confidential news column, "Le Point" weekly, Israel will soon be given access to the information gathered by the American spy satellite, stationed above the Equator.

This will be latest form of military co-operation between Israel and the US who are bound by a long term defence agreement. (Kuna)

Palestinian health resolution: The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Thursday adopted an \$18-million health programme for the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip despite strong opposition from Israel and the United States.

In a resolution, the annual assembly also expressed serious concern at alleged human rights violations and a deterioration of health standards in the Israeli-occupied territories. (Reuters)

Arafat threatens to quit: Palestine President Yasser Arafat, in press statements published in Kuwait Thursday, threatened to resign leadership of the PLO and offered a bleak picture of chances for peace in the Middle East.

In a preview of the Baghdad extraordinary summit, scheduled for May 28, a local daily today quoted Yasser Arafat as saying that PLO leader Yasser Arafat is facing mounting pressure from the Muslim fundamentalist "Hamas" movement, which is demanding 50 per cent of seats in the next Palestine National Council, or parliament in exile. (Kuna)

New group formed: A new Palestinian movement Thursday announced joining the Palestinian resistance movements under the name of the Islamic Movement for Liberation of Palestine (Falah).

In a declaration in Amman Friday explaining its strategy, Falah described itself as an "interim organisation" that is open for every believer who seeks total liberation of Palestine. It said that it is not a "party organisation." (Kuna)

Awaiting verdict: Prosecutors are seeking prison terms of 14 to 16 years for a Lebanese man and woman who say they ran a heroin smuggling ring to raise money for a Christian militia force in Beirut.

The state completed its case against the two and eight co-defendants Wednesday, and verdicts are to be issued Tuesday. The 10 are accused of involvement in a ring which smuggled at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds) of heroin into France from Lebanon in 1988. (AP)

Iran renews crackdown

Call to punish Iran liberals

NICOSIA, May 19, (AP): A senior Iranian cleric yesterday urged authorities not to pity or forgive offenders who break social taboos, such as women wearing make-up or men in neckties.

Tehran Radio quoted Ayatollah Mousavi Ardebili as saying in his sermon in Tehran that women who do not abide by the hejab, or the Islamic practice of covering themselves head to foot, should not be shown mercy.

"Not even the slightest pity or forgiveness must be shown to those breaking social taboos or displaying bad hejab," said Ardebili, former head of the judiciary.

A renewed crackdown on the hejab and "social corruption" was launched last week, despite President Hashemi Rafsanjani's statements that revolution fervor would cool in the effort to reconstruct Iran's war-battered economy.

But radicals within the Tehran hierarchy eschew any loosening of the Islamic strictures. The latest crackdown is believed engineered by radicals led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

The radio quoted Iran's Interior Minister, Abdollah Nouri, as saying yesterday that "the fight against social corruption and bad hejab will continue until the corruption in society has been uprooted."

Screwworm Combat plan

ROME, May 19, (AP): The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation yesterday launched an appeal for \$55 million to wipe out a lethal pest threatening livestock, wildlife and humans in Africa.

The parasitic screwworm fly was detected for the first time outside the Americas in 1988 in Libya and currently infests 20,000 square kilometres (9,000 square miles) around Tripoli, according to FAO documents distributed at the meeting.

"The confirmed presence of the new world screwworm fly in Libya... represents a major threat to the already precarious economies of neighbouring countries," FAO assistant director-general Frank Rinville told assembled potential donors from 30 countries.

The fly settles in wounds or tick bites and in a few days kills a animal host by eating away at tissues. Humans with flesh wounds can also invite infestation.

Awaiting verdict: Prosecutors are seeking prison terms of 14 to 16 years for a Lebanese man and woman who say they ran a heroin smuggling ring to raise money for a Christian militia force in Beirut.

The state completed its case against the two and eight co-defendants Wednesday, and verdicts are to be issued Tuesday. The 10 are accused of involvement in a ring which smuggled at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds) of heroin into France from Lebanon in 1988. (AP)

New group formed: A new Palestinian movement Thursday announced joining the Palestinian resistance movements under the name of the Islamic Movement for Liberation of Palestine (Falsh).

In a declaration in Amman Friday explaining its strategy, Falsh described itself as an "interim organisation" that is open for every believer who seeks total liberation of Palestine. It said that it is not a "party organisation." (Kuna)

Awaiting verdict: Prosecutors are seeking prison terms of 14 to 16 years for a Lebanese man and woman who say they ran a heroin smuggling ring to raise money for a Christian militia force in Beirut.

The state completed its case against the two and eight co-defendants Wednesday, and verdicts are to be issued Tuesday. The 10 are accused of involvement in a ring which smuggled at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds) of heroin into France from Lebanon in 1988. (AP)

New group formed: A new Palestinian movement Thursday announced joining the Palestinian resistance movements under the name of the Islamic Movement for Liberation of Palestine (Falsh).

In a declaration in Amman Friday explaining its strategy, Falsh described itself as an "interim organisation" that is open for every believer who seeks total liberation of Palestine. It said that it is not a "party organisation." (Kuna)

Awaiting verdict: Prosecutors are seeking prison terms of 14 to 16 years for a Lebanese man and woman who say they ran a heroin smuggling ring to raise money for a Christian militia force in Beirut.

The state completed its case against the two and eight co-defendants Wednesday, and verdicts are to be issued Tuesday. The 10 are accused of involvement in a ring which smuggled at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds) of heroin into France from Lebanon in 1988. (AP)

New group formed: A new Palestinian movement Thursday announced joining the Palestinian resistance movements under the name of the Islamic Movement for Liberation of Palestine (Falsh).

In a declaration in Amman Friday explaining its strategy, Falsh described itself as an "interim organisation" that is open for every believer who seeks total liberation of Palestine. It said that it is not a "party organisation." (Kuna)

Awaiting verdict: Prosecutors are seeking prison terms of 14 to 16 years for a Lebanese man and woman who say they ran a heroin smuggling ring to raise money for a Christian militia force in Beirut.

The state completed its case against the two and eight co-defendants Wednesday, and verdicts are to be issued Tuesday. The 10 are accused of involvement in a ring which smuggled at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds) of heroin into France from Lebanon in 1988. (AP)

New group formed: A new Palestinian movement Thursday announced joining the Palestinian resistance movements under the name of the Islamic Movement for Liberation of Palestine (Falsh).

In a declaration in Amman Friday explaining its strategy, Falsh described itself as an "interim organisation" that is open for every believer who seeks total liberation of Palestine. It said that it is not a "party organisation." (Kuna)

UK expects big strides in SA

LONDON, May 19, (Agencies): Britain is confident that South African President F.W. de Klerk will be able to push through more major reforms to apartheid, a British official said today.

"There will be further substantial progress on all fronts in the near future," an aide to prime minister Margaret Thatcher said after 90-minute talks with De Klerk which he said took place in a "very friendly atmosphere."

The British leader, who broke ranks with the European Economic Community by easing sanctions against Pretoria, congratulated De Klerk for taking "substantial" steps in the past year towards abolishing apartheid.

"We are confident as a result of these talks further substantial progress can be made," the aide told reporters without elaborating.

Thatcher now believes the task of the international community is to help South Africa to create wealth and have access to the international finance necessary for a successful post-apartheid policy, the aide said.

It was unlikely that Thatcher would visit South Africa this year, he said. The two leaders would confer on the timing of the proposed trip which "should be as helpful as possible to the process of negotiation."

De Klerk did not raise the question of economic sanctions against South Africa and was content to set out his route towards ending apartheid for which Thatcher guaranteed Britain's "encouragement and support."

Thatcher told De Klerk sanctions were a thing of the past and he thanked her for taking the lead in easing them. The aide said it was clear that other

EEC countries would follow Britain.

Thatcher lifted some sanctions in February after De Klerk freed black nationalist Nelson Mandela, whom she will meet in July, and lifted a 30-year ban on the African National Congress.

A special committee of Commonwealth foreign ministers said yesterday they will appeal to leaders of the EEC and the world's seven richest nations not to halt sanctions against South Africa.

A US ban on South African diamonds would be futile because they can be sold through other countries, according to analysts of the General Accounting Office, which

US cancels talks with Ethiopia abruptly

WASHINGTON, May 19, (Reuters): US-Ethiopian talks on improving relations and opening a northern food relief route suffered a setback yesterday when a high-level meeting was abruptly cancelled.

US officials said the meeting was cancelled because it was not clear whether an Ethiopian envoy, Kassa Kebede, had authority to commit his government to agreements.

"It was rather indefinite... whether he could commit his government on things that were very important to us," said a US official, speaking on condition she not be identified.

Kebede, Ethiopian director of foreign policy of the Democratic Unity Party, had scheduled a meeting with Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger late in the day but the meeting was cancelled.

Kebede could not be reached for comment. He had been quoted by the Washington Times newspaper on Thursday as saying: "I am leaving Washington with an agreement."

He was quoted as saying American Jewish leaders had helped broker a deal in which Ethiopia would open its northern port of Massawa for food relief shipments. Washington would accept an Ethiopian ambassador for the first time in 10 years and 3,000 Ethiopian Jews would be allowed to emigrate to Israel.

Up to 750,000 people fleeing civil wars in Sudan and Somalia have sought refuge in Ethiopia, the United Nations said yesterday.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a report the number of Somali refugees rose by 30,000 in the first quarter of 1990 to 355,000, while 48,000 Sudanese crossed into western Ethiopia, bringing their total to 395,000.

Relief agencies said the refugees put a big strain on Ethiopia which is fighting a civil war against Eritrean and Tigrayan rebels and suffering from drought in the north.

US senate avoids showdown

WASHINGTON, May 19, (UPI): The Senate avoided a showdown vote on the sensitive issue of imposing sanctions on Iraq on Thursday after opponents warned such a move could ruin chances for a Middle East peace settlement.

The sharpest warnings came from senators who several months ago talked with President Saddam Hussein. They said there are the "slightest indicators" that Iraq's ruler was willing to move on the peace process.

"Iraq, if we're going to have peace, is going to have to be part of it," said Senate Republican leader Robert Dole.

Senator Howard Metzenbaum, Democrat of Ohio, said sanctions could create "a much greater schism" between the United States and Iraq and make it that much more difficult to achieve peace in the Middle East.

A sharp debate on Iraq sanctions was triggered by Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Republican of New York, who offered an amendment to legislation that would establish sanctions against countries that use chemical or biological weapons on other nations or on their own people.

Cohen meets with Garang

NAIROBI, May 19, (Reuters): A senior US State Department official has met Sudanese rebel leader John Garang to try to revive his peace talks with Khartoum.

Garang and Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, held talks in the Kenyan capital Nairobi yesterday. They said in a joint statement that they explored "ways of moving towards peace and democracy in Sudan," a US Embassy spokesman said.

Talks in Nairobi between the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and Sudanese government officials, mediated by former US President Jimmy Carter, collapsed in December largely over the question of Islamic laws.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 for a secular government and against what it sees as domination of Christian or Islamist south Sudan by the Muslim and Arabised north.



'Living on a knife edge'

A recent picture of a woman digging in the dry soil of drought-hit Alsib, near Nairo in Ethiopia's northern province of Tigray. A local worker said at a press

conference on Friday that farmers in the region were 'living on a knife edge'. (Reuters wirephoto)

Syria attacks summit again

'Plot to destroy Arab unity'

DAMASCUS, May 19, (Agencies): Syria today renewed its attack against plans to hold an Arab summit in Baghdad, saying some states were plotting to destroy unity.

The comment in the official daily Al Thawra was published the day Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali met Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad in an apparent attempt to persuade him to attend the May 28 meeting.

Syria, almost alone among Arab states, has said it will boycott any summit in Baghdad, capital of Iraq. Officials said Ghozali delivered a message from Algerian President Chadli Benjedid on "the current situation in the Arab arena" but gave no details.

Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat said on Wednesday he hoped Chadli would persuade Assad to attend the summit; called to debate ways of countering the Soviet Jewish exodus to Israel.

Damascus has dismissed the summit call as an empty propaganda exercise.

"Despite President Assad's call for Arabs to unify their ranks to confront the desire by others to destroy them... there was this suspicious insistence on a summit to be held in Baghdad..." said Al Thawra.

"Some want this summit to be the final blow which will kill any form of Arab solidarity that exists now."

"A summit like this with its shallow meaning would face a Syrian rejection... such improvised action will empty national solidarity from its basic pillar (Syria)."

"Any summit linked to the Arab-Zionist conflict, the Palestine crisis and other national causes without Syria and its political and military weight will be without meaning or outcome."

Damascus has called for an emergency Arab ministerial meeting to discuss a neutral venue and an agenda.

Iraq's vice-president said in an interview published Friday that it made no difference to the success of an Arab summit scheduled for Baghdad later this month whether Syria attended.

"We have had conferences before where not everyone has attended, and they have been successful," Taha Yasseen Ramadan told the London-based Saudi Arabian daily Al Sharq Al Awsat.

"Of course we would like all Arab states to attend, but this does not mean that if they don't then the summit will fail," he said.

"Since the Arabs decided that the summit should be in Baghdad, it is up to us to provide the necessary hospitality. If the Syrian President decides to come to Baghdad, he will be welcomed and given the same protection as any other Arab leader," Ramadan said.

Assad repeated Thursday that he would not attend the Arab summit, but did not specifically cite differences with Iraq as the main reason for staying away.

ANKARA, May 19, (Reuters): After a decade of disappointment with some Arab states, mainly Muslim but secular Turkey is moving towards upgrading diplomatic relations with Israel.

Turkish officials said this week ties could be restored to ambassador level this year following a gradual warming between the two countries, especially in trade, tourism and diplomacy.

Relations have been at legation level since 1980 when Turkey, a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Nato Western alliance, withdrew its ambassador after the Israeli



Sermon on the street

Worshippers block a street in central Algiers on Friday to listen to a sermon by a fundamentalist preacher. The sign on the right says "Road blocked at 00". (Reuters wirephoto)

US urged to declare settlements illegal

WASHINGTON, May 19, (AP): Arab Ambassadors met with State Department officials to press for support of a UN Security Council resolution declaring as illegal the settlement of Soviet Jews in territory occupied by Israel.

Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League representative in the United States, said no agreement had been reached yesterday on efforts to craft a mutually acceptable resolution.

"We are still in an ongoing discussion on this matter," Maksoud said after emerging from a meeting at the State Department with Robert M. Kimmitt, undersecretary of state for political affairs.

Maksoud, who accompanied the ambassadors of Egypt, Algeria and Kuwait to the session, said Arab nations are insisting that the resolution clearly call Israel's settlement policy as a violation of international law.

"We think that if the resolution does not state that the settlements policy is illegal then Israel will not be deterred from making more settlements," Maksoud said.

"To us this question of massive

Knesset passed a resolution annexing east Jerusalem.

"We are a country which recognised Israel from the start, which was a courageous act. Why should we now stay at the back?" an official source said, referring to recent moves by some other countries on ties with the Jewish state.

Officials make clear that Turkey has been disappointed by a lack of support from Arab states on issues including ethnic Turkish Muslims in Bulgaria and divided Cyprus.

Turkey, which sees itself as a bridge between

Soviets ease Egypt's debts

CAIRO, May 19, (AP): The Soviet Union has promised Egypt massive debt relief that includes repayment in goods rather than cash, the government's Middle East news agency said today.

Figures in the state-run agency's report reflect that Egypt can clear its debt to Moscow by paying only about 7 per cent of the debt's value if computed at the official rate of exchange.

The report was uncorroborated. A government official told the Associated Press that came from President Hosni Mubarak's office. The President returned last night from a foreign trip that included almost four days in Moscow.

Middle East news agency said "repayment will begin after an interest-free six-year grace period. It will be in 'unconventional Egyptian goods,' the agency said, excluding cotton, Egypt's main export, and a few other agricultural products.

Egypt's foreign debt totals almost \$50 billion. Most is owed to Western nations, and Cairo is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund for debt restructuring and other relief.

Easing the debt burden was among the main objectives of Mubarak's tour, which took him to China, North Korea and Britain in addition to the Soviet Union.

Egyptian officials said Mubarak also won debt relief from China and North Korea during the tour. They gave no details, but \$70 million of Egypt's \$167-million debt to Beijing comes due this year.

The Soviet debt entails a mixture of civilian and military loans. Most were incurred in the 1960s and the early 1970s.

The news agency said the debt totalled 2.2 billion rubles, or \$3.58 billion at the official rate of \$1.63 to the ruble.

But the reported new agreement refigured the amount to be paid at 670 million Egyptian pounds, or \$252 million. Thus, negotiators apparently based calculations on 8.7 rubles to a dollar compared with official rate of 0.6 ruble to a dollar.

Last November, the Soviet government instituted a second exchange rate offering six rubles to the dollar for tourists' cash transactions. Trade remains at the official rate.

This is the first reported case of the Soviets revaluing a ruble debt to hard currency at a more realistic rate. While the 8.7-ruble rate exceeds the best government rate, it remains far below the rate on Moscow's black market of about 15 rubles to the dollar.

Europe and the volatile Middle East, also believes it can play a role in any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Israel's charge d'affaires in Ankara, Yehuda Millo, said: "I hope (the upgrading) will happen soon. Not only the volume of ties calls for it but also developments in the Middle East.

"Turkey can play a role in the Middle East and does. Turkey is part and parcel of any regional settlement," he told Reuters.

Any Turkish decision on relations with Israel is

Cairo-Moscow relations grow

US remains friend

CAIRO, May 19, (AP): President Hosni Mubarak has completed a six-year process of reconciliation with the Soviet Union without damaging Cairo's special relationship with the United States.

Mubarak returned home with political and economic benefits for Egypt after his 46-hour visit to Moscow this week.

He won Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's public support for his Middle East policies. It included Gorbachev's unprecedented condemnation of Israel for allowing Soviet Jewish immigrants to settle on Arab lands its troops have occupied since the 1967 Middle East war.

The two nations also signed a framework agreement that holds the promise of substantial Soviet economic aid for Egypt during the 1990s.

Perhaps more importantly, the improvement in Cairo-Moscow relations did not come at Washington's expense.

There was no hint during Mubarak's visit of any Soviet intent to revive the Kremlin's old role as principal arms supplier to Egypt, a role that the United States assumed in 1980. Nor was there any suggestion of Moscow trying to join the United States in current Middle East peacemaking efforts.

Rather, Mubarak came away with a Soviet pledge to support US and Egyptian efforts to initiate a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. Previously, Moscow's policy focused solely on the Israeli-spurred idea of an international Middle East peace conference.

Mubarak's visit came six years after he opened a policy of trying to normalise relations with the Soviet Union, where as a young air force officer he learned to be a fighter pilot.

He began by restoring diplomatic representation to the level of ambassador. Later, he mended other fences smashed by his predecessor, Anwar Sadat.

Sadat, assassinated by Muslim extremists almost nine years ago, was the last Egyptian head of state to visit Moscow, in 1972 just before relations soured. First the Soviets refused to meet Egypt's arms requests. Sadat reacted with sweeping reprisals, including expelling 17,000 Soviet military personnel.

Despite the improvement in relations since 1984, there remained what one Egyptian official termed "a psychological shortcoming in terms of the absence of personal, face-to-face contact at the top."

Mubarak's visit from Monday-Wednesday of this week sealed that breach.

Ibrahim Nafei, editor of Cairo's leading newspaper Al Ahram and a member of Mubarak's entourage, wrote that the meeting "rectified the balance of relations and put them in the proper context."

"More accurately, it codified the relationship... on the footing of close personal knowledge between the two leaders that had been missing."

The visit was part of an Asian-European tour that also took Mubarak to China, North Korea, Oman and Britain.

Before setting out, Mubarak made clear his objectives included seeking economic benefits and marshalling opposition to the settling of Israel's Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He evidently succeeded. In a Moscow dinner speech honouring Mubarak, Gorbachev denounced settling immigrants among the 1.7 million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza as "anti-Soviet." It is part of "insidious designs" by Israel, he said.

"To push immigrants to Israel into doing that amounts to dangerously and immorally playing with their fates," Gorbachev said.

It was Moscow's strongest censure of Israel since the influx of Soviet Jews began last fall. Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan and Gaza from Egypt in the 1967 war.

Officials in Cairo said the Soviets promised to consider Egyptian ideas. One would grant Soviet Jews the right to return if they find difficulties in Israel after emigrating. Another would ask the United States to relax restrictions on Soviet Jewish immigration.

Gorbachev and Mubarak also signed a joint declaration that reflected Moscow's apparent shift on Middle East peacemaking. "The two sides support the use of all means to activate the peace process," he said.

"They welcome constructive proposals and initiatives... including the proposals aimed at launching a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and facilitating the convening of an international peace conference under UN auspices."

The joint declaration clearly gave precedence to US-brokered peace talks over an international conference aimed at reaching an overall Middle East settlement.

Shevardnadze told Egyptian editors the visit was "very successful and very important."

"It was a historic turning point in Egyptian-Soviet relations and marked the beginning of long-term co-operation in the various political, economic and cultural fields," the Soviet foreign minister said.



On watch at settlements

Yusef Ahmad Sobah, a Palestinian from the village of Al Hadi, sits with his wife on Friday as they watch a machine clearing rocks from land which Sobah claims belongs to him situated alongside existing houses at the edge of the Jewish settlement of Eilat. Sobah claims the land is being cleared to expand the settlement. (Reuters wirephoto)

Islamic ministers meet put off

CAIRO, May 19, (Reuters): A planned meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Cairo has been postponed at Senegal's request. Foreign Ministry sources said today.

The sources cited no reason for the Senegalese move but said members states would consult on a new date for the meeting, originally scheduled for June 9.

Rights report outrages Arabs

UNITED NATIONS, May 19, (Kuna): Arab and some other delegations are outraged at a series of documents on human rights in their countries issued weekly here at the request of Israel.

For the last two months Israel has been addressing letters to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar containing extracts from last year's "country reports on human rights practices" published by the US State Department on the human rights situation world-wide.

These letters are being circulated as official documents on the General Assembly and the Security Council. They are translated into the six UN working languages — English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian and Chinese.

The Israeli letters were in retaliation to a letter addressed to Perez de Cuellar in late March by the Palestinian rights committee which quoted the same report regarding human rights violations in the occupied territories.

The committee members had decided, earlier that month, to request that an extract from the report be issued as an official document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly under the item "Question of Palestine."

Ever since, Israel has requested the UN to circulate extracts from the same report on the situation of human rights in the countries of the committee members starting with Senegal's chairman.

Then followed Malaysia, a member of the Security Council, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Laos, Somalia, Sudan, Burkina Faso and Bahrain, which is neither a member of the committee nor an observer.

The committee, called the "committee on the exercise of inalienable rights of the Palestinian people" was established by the General Assembly on Nov 10, 1975 and groups 23 members and 23 observers.

Not fair "Why should Israel request the circulation of information on human rights situation in sovereign states. After all, the committee requested the same thing pertaining exclusively to the occupied territory, not to Israel. That is not fair," a diplomat complained.

"What Israel is doing is the occupied territory is illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention, since it is the occupier, and talking about human rights in somebody's country is considered interference in that country's internal affairs," he added.

Another diplomat wondered why Israel is singling out the Arab and Muslim countries from the committee members which also include Eastern European countries. "It is time for Israel, now, especially after the changes there to court the leaders there," he explained.

Palestine's envoy Zuhdi Labib Terzi said General Assembly and Security Council resolutions request the secretary-general to keep under observation developments in the occupied territory and he is obliged to publicise them.

However, he added, "the secretary-general is not obliged to circulate reports issued by one government about another government. He is only obliged to do so when it comes to documents relevant to the occupation. There is a difference there."

Asked what they are planning to do in response to the Israeli action, some delegates who have been consulting among themselves said no decision had been taken yet, but that they will respond either individually or collectively through the committee.

Church criticises Israel

PITTSBURGH, May 19, (AP): The largest ecumenical group in the United States has come out against an Israeli move into occupied East Jerusalem.

The National Council of Churches wrapped up its policy-making meeting yesterday with a resolution that also expressed regret at the US congressional recognition of occupied Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The council said occupied Jerusalem is threatened by actions favouring one religion, such as the non-binding congressional measure.

The city is "a focus of deepest religious inspiration and attachment of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the council said.

The council asked Israeli leaders to remove Jewish settlers from St. John's Hospice, a Greek orthodox shelter.

About 150 armed Jewish settlers, backed by \$1.8 million from the Israeli government, moved in during the week before Easter. Last week an Israeli court ordered all but 20 settlers to leave until the court resolves the issue.

The Hospice is across the street from the church of the Holy Sepulchre, believed by Roman Catholic and many orthodox religions to be the burial site of Jesus Christ.

The church council, which represents most major Anglican, orthodox and Protestant religions, but not Roman Catholics, comprises 32 denominations with 42 million members.

GCC states urged to push tourism

Important economic resource

KUWAIT, May 19, (Kuna): Board Chairman and Director General of Kuwait's tourism company, Mohammed Nasser Al Sannaoui yesterday urged the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to give due attention to tourism and entertainment sector and complained that tourism industry in the region lacks programmes and studies plans.

In an interview with Kuna, he stressed that the industry in the six-state country was based only on personal endeavours, noting that there were no substantive

programmes or activities to promote tourism on equal footing with other sectors.

However, he commended Kuwait's efforts in the field and emphasised that some delegations from the GCC and Arab states come to Kuwait to get acquainted with the "pioneer experiment" of the company.

Sannaoui suggested that the GCC six states — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — sit together to forge a joint plan to activate tourism, and recalled he had already

proposed such a collective move to the GCC general secretariat.

He said such a plan cannot be formulated but by joint desire from the six member states, asserting that tourism and entertainment industry has become an important economic resource.

The Kuwaiti official further pointed out that the great strides scored by the GCC countries regarding infrastructure and means of travel could be an incentive in this connection and could facilitate tourism and encourage private sector invest-

ments in the field.

Sannaoui called for a bigger role to the private sector in tourism activities in Kuwait by investing in utilities such as restaurants and minor entertainment projects.

He defended the monopoly by the company of tourism and entertainment industry in Kuwait, saying the status was due to the state's developmental policy. He added the company is operating big projects with a huge budget which the private sector would not manage to possess in view of the local market's limited capabilities.

Fertiliser plant to cost KD 10 million

KUWAIT, May 19, (Kuna): Kuwait will make good use of its waste in the near future, by transforming the bulk of it into fertilisers and raw materials, managing director of the Organic Fertilisers Company said yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference on the best ways to benefit from all types of waste, Dr Wedad Al Swayyeh affirmed that the waste issue is at the top of the state's priority list.

He indicated that the government's keenness in this regard was translated into action by establishing the Organic Fertilisers Company in 1989.

Dr Swayyeh said that Kuwait dumps 2000-2500 tons of waste per day, which the company had begun classifying since last February. A plant, which will cost the state KD10 million, will go into operation for this purpose in the first quarter of 1993.

He noted that the company makes good use of 75 per cent of the waste and will put up to 100 per cent upon the construction of the plant, to be located south of Umm Al-Qura Area.

He said that the company produces 600 tons daily of organic fertilisers, as well as metals and paper, which the company sells to plants here and abroad.

Swayyeh said that the company has numerous ideas for the future such as designing waste containers or bags of different colours to make the classification process easier.

GCC states to pay off university commitment

BAHRAIN, May 19, (Reuters): Seven Gulf Arab states which founded the Arabian Gulf University will soon start paying off at least part of its 20-million-dollar (\$53 million) debt, Bahrain's Education Minister Ali Fakhr said today.

He said education ministers from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates made a "definitive financial commitment" at a meeting in Bahrain last Tuesday.

"The various members assured us they are willing to pay and made much more definite commitment than before — I am more optimistic this time," Fakhr told Reuters.

Regular payments to four main foreign contractors who built the 41-million-dollar (\$109 million) campus stopped in 1986. But they continued work, finishing the project in 1988.

The firms are South Korea's Daewoo Industrial Co., Taiwan's Ret Ser Engineering Agency, Saudi Arabia's Rabha Landscaping and the UAE-Australian joint venture, Al Habtoor Leighton.

They were owed initial fees of 12 million dollars (\$33 million) but interest and compensation for additional costs have nearly doubled the amount. Some of the firms have said they would have to take the case to court if no solution was found.

Fakhr declined to give details but said he would meet the contractors soon to discuss methods of payment.

Zayed leaves Japan

TOKYO, May 19, (Kuna): President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan left here today for Indonesia, his last leg of an Asian tour that included China.

During his four-day official visit, Sheikh Zayed met with Japanese Emperor Akihito and the Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Zayed's visit to Indonesia will include talks with President Suharto on international and Islamic issues and other domains of bilateral co-operation.



Inspection tour

Minister of Higher Education and Chairman of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training Dr Ali Abdullah Al Shamlan paid an inspection visit to power and water and telecommunications and air navigation centre recently, within the framework of inspection tours programme of the authority's facilities. The minister was accompanied on his tour by Director General of Paset Dr Abdul-Raman Saleh Al Muhallan.

From the courts

Man gets 12.5 years for various offences

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to 12.5 years imprisonment and his partner to 5.5 years imprisonment and ordered their deportation from Kuwait for committing a number of offences. The same court refrained from issuing any sentence on a third partner in return for a pledge of good conduct for one year. The first two defendants were accused of having an illicit love affair with teenage girls, harassing two public servants (policemen), forcibly taking their arms and driving at high speed.

They were also accused of drinking and driving under the influence of liquor. The court was told that the first defendant, identified as S, was having an illicit love affair with a young girl. The family of the girl refused to marry her to him as he was already married to another. But he took the girl to his residence and lived with her as "husband and wife". The girl was still under 21 years of age.

One day S, went with his partner, the second defendant, K, to get the girl from her relative's house. There, they were under the influence of alcohol and quarrelled with two men. They beat the men with the liquor bottles causing them injury. They then left the house and K, drove the car at high speed. On the way, a police patrol stopped them. The policemen noticed that the driver was drunk and thus asked him to get down and follow him. But the first defendant, who had a pistol, went down and asked the policeman to stop. He threatened the other policeman and took their weapons and their car's keys and ran away. S, later hid the pistol with the third defendant after informing him of the trouble. The three men confessed the charges before the court.

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a man to two and a half years in jail with hard labour on the charge of breaking into and hijacking a car belonging to another.

The court heard that the car owner received a telephone call from the local police station informing him that his car was found driven by the suspect and that the latter had broken into it by using an iron bar.

The defendant's father claimed that his son suffered from psychiatric illnesses and that he regularly visited the psychiatric hospital for treatment.

Medical examinations confirmed that the defendant was free from any psychiatric ailments and fully responsible for his acts, and the court based its ruling on the medical evidence.

THE Court of Higher Appeal increased the compensation for a man from KD 16,000 to KD 34,000

to suit the great loss he received through a traffic accident. M.Y. was an owner of several companies and a shareholder in several others. He was with his friend in his car when he met an accident that caused him a lot of harm. He lost 41 per cent of his body's ability and became incapable of carrying out his duties. He was compelled to sell out his companies. The man demanded from the court for a compensation of KD 100,000. The Court of First Instance asked the insurance company to provide him with KD 20,000 but the Court of Higher Appeal raised the amount to KD 34,000.

THE Court of Appeals revised a fine sentence from KD 100 to KD 75 issued by the Court of Misdemeanour against a lieutenant acting as a security officer at the Kuwait International Airport for beating up another security officer in the rank of captain.

The court heard that the lieutenant was on duty when the captain arrived into the VIP parking lot and was parking his car. The lieutenant approached him and told him that he could not park there for security consideration, as an important personality was arriving.

The captain pointed out that he was on duty too and stressed that he knew the regulations as much as he did, but the words soon developed into a heated argument and ended up in an exchange of blows, which left the captain bruised.

The lieutenant was referred to disciplinary military court which sentenced him to 21 days in jail, and was later referred to the Court of Misdemeanour on the charge of attacking a public employee on duty and sentenced to three months in absentia and fined KD 100.

He appealed and the court cancelled the jail term and reduced the fine to KD 75.

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a man to three years in jail with hard labour on charges of possession of liquor for trading purposes, and evading arrest and fined him KD 300 and ordered the eight cartons of liquor found in the boot of his car confiscated.

The court heard that the suspect was driving fast when a highway police patrol chased him and ordered him to stop, but he sped up and refused to slow down.

The patrol managed to stop the suspect and a subsequent search of his car revealed the eight cartons of liquor, which contained 12 bottles each for which he said he was offered KD 250 per carton.

Family planning centre relocated

THE head of the Family Planning Centre at the Public Health Ministry Dr Ibrahim Mohammed Al Qasbi has said that the centre will soon be relocated to its new headquarters premises near the Sabah Hospital.

He told a local daily that the centre last year received as many as 100,000 inquiries from different nationalities, pointing out that inflammation of the urinary tract and gonorrhea are the most common venereal disease in Kuwait.

He said that the pre-marital medical examination for newly weds is extremely important as it helps avoid many potential health and social problems.

He said that the centre was

established in 1958 under the name of the Social Medicine Centre and it treated cases of impotency in men, different venereal disease, gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes disorders of the reproduction organs and others.

He said that a number of tests are carried out for the patients, which include taking a blood or urine sample to check out the rhesus factor, determine immunity against measles, examine hereditary diseases caused by blood disorders, adding that the centre also carried out tests of the sperm of would-be father to determine his virility and potency.

He said that the centre co-operated with the maternity hospital and urinary tract centres, based on the individual case.

He said that gonorrhea and the inflammation of the urinary tract were the commonest disease for which a total 3,400 patients sought medical help at the centre in 1989, besides herpes and syphilis.

He pointed out that the centre treated all different causes responsible for lack of pregnancy in women or infertility in men, but the percentage success varied from one patient to another.

He stressed the importance of religious education as a fundamental protector against venereal diseases, besides regular cleaning and attention to reproduction organs.

Kuwaiti relief to all Lebanese

BEIRUT, May 19, (Kuna): Deputy Chairman of the Relief Supreme Committee Mahdi Sadeq has said the Kuwaiti relief aid will be distributed indiscriminately to all Lebanese areas soon.

In separate interviews to Al Lewaa and Ad Deyar dailies published yesterday Sadeq said medical supplies that arrived in Lebanon mid April and early May, were handed over to the Health Ministry.

He also said that a quantity of milk and biscuits were also handed over to orphanages and disabled houses and social associations.

He pointed out that the foodstuffs were not distributed yet, pending the rest of Kuwaiti relief dispatches to be completed.

The first batch of 20 trucks arrived Lebanon on April 18 and the second of 40 trucks arrived on May 9, both consisting mainly of food stuff and medication.

The 58 truck convoy, the third batch of relief aid, will arrive Wednesday to the Massana area on the Lebanese-Syrian border line.

It is expected that a representative from HH Kuwait Crown Prince and Prime Minister's office and the relief supervisor Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al Sabah and Kuwait's ambassador to Syria will accompany the convoy.

The convoy left Kuwait yesterday for Lebanon loaded with food stuffs, medications and school supplies.

This is the third batch of relief aid to be sent to war-torn Lebanon under instructions of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

Indonesian-UAE trade totalled \$128m in '89

ABU DHABI, May 19, (Opecna): Total trade between Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates was valued at \$128 million in 1989, a substantial jump over figures recorded in previous years.

According to government sources, Indonesia's exports to the UAE in 1989 rose to \$122.8 million in value while the remainder constituted UAE goods imported.

UAE commodities purchased by Indonesia, a fellow Opec member country, include manufactured goods, food products, animals, chemicals, fuel lubricants, beverages, tobacco, animal and vegetable oils and plywood.

Diplomatic links between the two countries go back to 1976, just a few years after the UAE federation gained its independence. Indonesia set up an embassy here in 1978.

Indonesia's ambassador to Kuwait was accredited to the UAE on a non-resident basis until 1982, when the first Indonesian envoy was appointed to the UAE capital.

High-ranking government officials from both countries have made a number of exchange visits over the years to promote bilateral trade and economic co-operation. Last year, UAE Communications Minister Saeed Al Mulla paid a visit to Jakarta.

During that year, the two countries signed an aviation accord to help boost bilateral air transport services.

Memorandums of understanding already existed between the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the corresponding chambers in Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

The sources said that another area where the two countries could expect bilateral ties to prosper was as a result of their respective membership in the regional groups — the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Young males cause most accidents: report

31 traffic deaths in March

THE Faculty of Business Studies, within its cultural season, held a seminar on the theme "Traffic Accidents and Related Insurance in Kuwait."

Speaking at the lecture, Dr Halwani, from Kuwait University, said that about 84 per cent of traffic casualties were caused by youth, particularly males. He said that the percentage of traffic accidents in Kuwait exceeded those compared to Europe and the USA. Comparatively, he said that the rate of accidents in Kuwait were ten times higher than their counterparts in Europe and the USA.

Problem

On the economic issue related to traffic accidents, the officials said that these could be classified as being directly related to loss in human life, physical disability and medical liabilities, and indirect costs related to material damage and loss in wasted man hours.

Lieutenant Col Mohammad Jumah, assistant director at Ahmad Traffic Department, also speaking at the seminar said that traffic accidents are a com-

mon problem the world over. However, he added that it differs in intensity and types from one country to another. The common thread among all accidents is that the damage is the same — human and economic losses.

Jumah said that during the month of March 1990, Kuwait had witnessed 31 deaths resulting from traffic accidents which amounted to 1898. Average annual deaths resulting from traffic accidents were 380 in 1989, in addition to which 20,000 casualties were also recorded.

The traffic department endeavours to extend every assistance and conducts "traffic awareness campaigns" with a view to minimise the rate of accidents. Nevertheless, he said that in one year about 250,000 tickets had to be issued to errant violators — the majority of which were issued for over speeding.

Contribution

He called on the information media to contribute towards enlightening the public about the importance of driving safely, technically maintaining their vehicles and to abide by traffic

laws. He added that Kuwait's roads have been designed to meet international specifications and are on a par with the best in Europe.

Loss

Khaled Al Hassan, deputy general manager at Gulf Insurance Company, said that due to the very high rate of traffic accidents insurance companies suffered considerable losses. He disclosed that for an amount of KD 13, a car was insured against third party coverage. Such cars, when at fault, resulted in the insurance company paying out a totally unimaginable amount of money in relation to the KD 13 collected, he said. Keeping insurance rates so low, besides adversely affecting the balance sheet of the company, also encourage drivers to be reckless, he said.

Hassan referred to a study prepared by Kuwait Insurance Company which confirmed that the value of car insurance was restricted only in Kuwait and Bahrain. In other GCC countries, the value of such insurance was left to be decided by each individual company.

Anti-smoking awareness

Battle of the butt continues

By Nashat Al Agha

THE head of School Health Department at Kuwait's Ministry of Public Health and the member of World Anti-Smoking Experts Committee Dr Hussain Al Moemen was quoted as saying that Kuwait shares with the international community its concern for fighting the smoking phenomenon. The Kuwaiti attitude in this connection emanated from her conviction towards the importance of putting an end to the spread of this harmful habit which is threatening the health of human beings.

In an interview with the daily Al Seyassah on the occasion of the renewal of his membership in the World Anti-Smoking Experts Committee based in Geneva, Switzerland, the official said that the Kuwait Anti-Smoking Society has adopted important programmes to redress this issue. In this respect, he said Kuwait had devised a special strategy which had been set up in co-operation with specialists from World Health Organisation (WHO). The programme underpinned continued development and is based on the awareness programmes aimed at enlightening smokers and in the meantime providing the necessary protection for those who failed to give up the habit by mandating less tar and nicotine cigarettes.

Meanwhile, the official disclosed that a law banning the import of cigarettes with high tar and nicotine content will be endorsed soon and another law banning the advertisement on cigarettes is also to be promulgated.

Diseases

Meanwhile, the official confirmed that the spread of smoking is connected with the spread of several dangerous diseases including lung cancer, heart diseases and failure of the respiratory system.

He added that smoking had registered an increase among women and this is reflected in the increase in the number of cases of lung cancer among females.

He added that the relevant statistics in Kuwait showed that increase in the lung cancer cases among men amounted to about 18.5 of total cancer cases in the country. Cancer cases among women in Kuwait had increased during the recent years by about 200 per cent and with expatriate women by about 415 per cent.

Relevant studies disclosed that the smoking habit plays a significant role in developing cancer-related diseases.

Clinics

Meanwhile, the official disclosed that the relevant field studies conducted by Kuwait University, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and Kuwait Anti-Smoking Society have shown that the smoking habit which is prevalent among adults had reduced in 1986 and the relevant percentage had amounted to 44 per cent compared to 48 per cent of adults in 1979. Unfortunately, smokers had increased among school students during the same period by 13 per cent in 1979 and 24 per cent in 1986.

On the other hand, the official said that Kuwaiti Anti-Smoking Society has set up a special clinic in 1983 to eradicate this bad habit by enhancing the health awareness among smokers.

He disclosed that there is a regional co-operation among the Arab Health Ministers Council. A special technical committee has been set up grouping representatives from the member states who convene meetings regularly and follow up the implementation of the anti-smoking programmes in the member states.

Additionally, the Arab Gulf Health Ministers Council has formed a committee for its member states which organises anti-smoking seminars. The last took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in October 1987.

Meanwhile, the official has called for increasing tax on cigarettes in addition to enacting a law banning smoking in public places and in some ministries and institutions. In conclusion, the official has called for co-operation between the governmental institutions and welfare societies to fight the smoking phenomenon.

Hawalli residents bemoan dirty roads

PEOPLE at Hawalli and Nagra areas complained that made of the two areas are dirty need to be organised and paved by the Public Works Ministry, and claimed that authorities are not concerned with afforestation. The markets area in Nagra should be organised and roads should have more traffic signals at cross-roads of the market, they said and called on relevant authorities to install lamp posts at roads.

Some people in Hawalli complained of neglect of old fronts of buildings and commented that authorities should oblige landlords to maintain these buildings and fronts. They called on the Health Ministry to complete the maintenance works at old health centre of Hawalli to reduce pressure on other health centres.

Meanwhile, a number of owners of shops at Hawalli and Nagra accused some inspectors of municipality of committing illegal and irresponsible actions during their duties when they inspect shops to make sure they are clean and abide by instructions of municipality. These inspectors behave as they are kings. They withdraw licences of shops and report violations even if the violation is trivial. They added that some of these inspectors discriminate among owners of shops.

People in the area called on relevant authorities to establish public gardens and parks in the open areas and place which are many in Hawalli and Nagra. They complained there are no entertainment places there.

No study subsidy for stateless students

REDUNDANTS students at private schools will not be entitled to subsidy by the Ministry of Education, the Undersecretary at the Ministry Abdurhaman Al Khodari was quoted as saying.

He added that the relevant subsidy will be honoured only in accordance with the prescribed figures defined by the ministry. For the primary stage each class should contain not more than 36 students each, for intermediate not more than 34 students each and for secondary 32 students for each class.

Khodari provided this information to refute allegations that the ministry will change its attitude in this connection. He reiterated that no change in this respect will materialise and the relevant procedures will be applied also on the stateless students.

In an interview with a local daily, the undersecretary has called on the relevant schools to enhance the number of its classes instead of increasing the number at each class.

He added that the tuition of stateless students will be borne entirely by their parents. He clarified that the ministry since it has adopted subsidy for the Arab private school in 1976 had decided to give such a subsidy to all students except the Kuwaiti schools who the government provides free of charge educational opportunities. As of the current academic year, the official said the ministry had decided to deprive the stateless students from such a subsidy.

Transplant centre being followed up

KUWAIT'S Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak was quoted as saying that he was carefully following up the progress achieved by Hamed Al Issa Centre for Kidney and Organs Transplant.

In an interview with the daily Al Seyassah, the official said that the centre had significantly contributed in reducing the burden of patients who were suffering kidney failure.

A new act dealing with the kidney and organs transplant will be endorsed soon and a special budget will be allocated for these purposes.

He added that this centre was the first of its kind in the region and that all the relevant Islamic Fatwa (religious opinion) have sanctioned the donation of organs.

Meanwhile, the minister praised the efforts of the Chairman of Hamed Al Issa Centre for Kidney and Organs Transplant Dr George Aboua (towards developing techniques at the centre, referring that about 550 kidneys were being transplanted by the centre so far. He further pointed out that the centre will enjoy an independent budget in the future.

Meanwhile, the minister confirmed that he is striving to increase the salaries of the nursing staff at the ministry in view their dedicated efforts.

He said that this section constitutes an important part in the medical body and it was entitled for special care in order to ensure the necessary motives for continued job satisfaction.

Vassiliou in Kuwait on state visit

Amir holds banquet

CYPRIOU President Georges Vassiliou arrived here yesterday heading a delegation on a short visit.

He was received at the airport by HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Minister of HH the Amir's diwan affairs and ministers, governors, heads of diplomatic corps and a number of officials. Vassiliou is accompanied by a number of ministers, officials and a media delegation.

HH the Amir hosted a dinner banquet in the honour of President Vassiliou later last night.

Vassiliou's talks with HH the Amir are expected to centre on bilateral relations, the Middle East crisis and international issues of mutual concern.

Funding

The Cypriot news agency said yesterday Vassiliou's talks will centre on economic relations and other issues of common

interest.

Vassiliou is scheduled to spend two days in Kuwait and will stop briefly in Qatar on Monday before returning home.

He is to meet Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani in Qatar for formal talks. Kuwait has provided major financial aid to the east Mediterranean island in the past, including funding for highway and sewage projects.

Greek Cypriot officials have also expressed concern recently that Arab sup-

port for its position in unity negotiations with the Turkish Cypriot section is slipping.

The island has been divided along sectarian lines since a 1974 invasion by Turkish forces in the wake of a coup by supporters of a union with Greece.

The Turkish sector declared themselves the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in 1983, but only Turkey recognises the statelet.

Six-month overstay ban in full force

No visas at airport

ANY expatriate staying out of Kuwait for over a period of six months will have the visa cancelled on arrival at any of Kuwait's borders and will have to return to the point of origin.

Explaining the director of security of airport, Col Mahmoud Al Dosari said that expatriates desiring to stay abroad over this period, should have valid reasons and should obtain prior approval.

Passport officials at the airport have no authority to grant entry visas to businessmen or others and entry visas should be obtained in advance from immigration departments that extend many facilities for issuing entry visas or commercial or visit visas.

Pilgrims

Airport authorities have mobilised all needed personnel to encounter the onset of the rush during the pilgrimage season. The security department at the airport co-ordinates with Civil Aviation Authority and have

introduced a new facility to manage pilgrims only who will be processed within a few seconds.

In a related development, the official said that an agreement has been reached with the authority and KAC as well as other airlines on several procedures to face the expected rush of summer holiday passengers. About three million passengers entered and left the country via Kuwait airport last year, Dosari said.

Procedures

For completion of procedures of babies born out of Kuwait, the official said that Kuwaitis should go to the Kuwaiti embassy in the country of the baby's birth and obtain an emergency travel document. On entering Kuwait permanent documents will have to be applied for. With respect to expatriates, they should visit the Kuwait embassy to get a visit card for the new born baby who will have legal residence after entering into Kuwait.

Commenting on the confusion of names of passengers banned

from leaving the country, Dosari said that the relevant authorities are undertaking a comprehensive study to solve the problem. However, he advised passengers to visit the exit department at the Ministry of Interior prior to travelling to ensure that they are not banned from travel. He added that passengers who arrive at Kuwait and are found to be on the banned list will be sent back to their point of origin.

He said that the services and public relations office at the airport offer assistance to passengers who cannot achieve their passport formalities at the airport and also provides assistance to the old and disabled passengers.

The Ministry of Interior is undertaking a study to cancel the embarkation and disembarkation cards. Pilgrims will not be asked to fill in these cards, and for other passengers, for the time being the information required to be provided has been reduced, Dosari said.



Picture (left) shows the ambassador of India being received by the sponsor Mohammad Hoshdar Khan, and (right) Mrs Geeta Budhiraja accepting the model of the Charminar from the sponsor.



Picture (left) shows the ambassador and his wife with Mohammed Hoshdar Khan and Shaheen H Khan (first left in the second row). Also seen are Sikandar Khan, Mukarram Khan, Dr Riaz Khan with Messrs Zakluddin and Fasiluddin and the managers of the Maseelah Resort and (right) shows Mr Abdul Khalique First Secretary at the Indian embassy and his wife Hamida with the sponsors, Abdul Wahab Al Bannai, Sikandar Chairman and Zakluddin.

Hyderabadis hold gala evening at Maseelah resort

400 years anniversary

HYDERABADIS in Kuwait had a gala evening last night at the Maseelah Resort at Maseelah where a garden fete was held as part of the ongoing Festival of Hyderabad in connection with the 400 year anniversary of the city.

Merciful providence suddenly turned the scorching heat of the day into a cool and pleasant evening. Indian Ambassador

A.K. Budhiraja and his wife Geeta Budhiraja joined the fete and went about the 400 year anniversary of the city, savouring famous Hyderabad food, watching glimpses of Hyderabad through pictures, video films and other displays.

The envoy and his wife mingled freely with the people who turned up in large numbers to avail the unique opportunity.

A beautifully organised children's fancy dress competition became the star attraction of the stage show and even a out-so perfect musical performance by amateur artists was good humouredly enjoyed by the audience in the spirit of the evening.

Children had a field day with a magician and his bag of tricks entertaining them along with a

toyshop and fun games to attract their attention. The presence of a large crowd until late at night was proof enough of the evenings success and Mukarram Khan, the organiser of the fete received well deserved kudos for his effort. The sponsors of the festival M.H. Khan and Shaheen H. Khan came in for special praise and were felicitated on the occasion.

Mohammed Fasiluddin, Chairman of the Hyderabad Association in Kuwait and his wife Zakluddin deserve special mention for their contribution in the success of their function. Mrs Saboochi Yusuf compered the fancy dress competition admirably. Last but not the least a word of praise to the stall holders who tried to out do each other in excellence in the best traditions of Hyderabad.

Abu Halifa beach dangerous

CITIZENS at Abu Halifa area vehemently criticised authorities at Ahmad Governorate for not taking adequate measures to warn people against swimming at Abu Halifa beach which is prone to sudden whirlpools.

They pointed out that 22 persons drowned in the area during the last few years, three of whom were Kuwaitis from the same family. A citizen Eid Al Hindal said that the beach located between Abu Halifa Secondary School and the oil installations has been the scene of many drowning incidents and that three of his family — a cousin, a sister and brother perished in this area.

He criticised the lack of any warning board at the beach to inform people of the dangers of swimming in the area or any buoys to mark the dangerous area and said that the lack of these warning facilities was directly responsible for the deaths of his family members.

He said that in 1978, his cousin Naser Al Hindal who was then 20 years of age, drowned while swimming in the area along with her cousin Faisal. He added that several years later, his sister and brother also drowned in the same area. Yacoub, he said, called for help as he was caught in the vortex of a whirlpool and his sister rushed to his aid. Unfortunately, both drowned.

He said that many families visit the beach and called on authorities to take immediate action to put up very noticeable signs warning swimmers of the dangers of swimming in the area.



Soviet military official

Dance Minister Shaikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber yesterday received here the first deputy commander of the Soviet land forces Major General Dr Grenikovich and the accompanying delegation. Talks during the meeting, which was also attended by Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, dealt with means of developing and strengthening bilateral relations.

UK message

KUWAIT, May 19, (Kuwa): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed today received a message from British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hurd dealing with the emergency Arab Summit, to be held in Baghdad on May 28.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters the message, which was delivered by the UK ambassador to Kuwait, tackled progress of Anglo-Arab relations in light of the extraordinary Arab summit and bilateral ties between Britain and Kuwait.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah said that Cypriot President George Vassiliou's talks with HH the Amir and senior Kuwaiti officials will tackle means of boosting bilateral relations and resolving disputes arising from Kuwait's properties in Cyprus.

Female inmates get added term

THE Criminal Court has sentenced four women inmates at the Central Prison to five years in jail each for attacking a woman lawyer.

The court heard that the victim had testified against the inmates in her capacity as an eye-witness in an incident in which they clashed with the jail matron. The inmates planned to get even with the victim, so they entered her cell, where she was serving time for issuing a dud cheque. One watched the cell door while the three others knocked her to the ground, stripped off her clothes and inflicted bruises and traumatic injuries that made the victim unconscious.

Subsequent medical examination of the victim by the prison hospital revealed the injuries sustained during the assault, and the court ruling was upheld by the Court of Appeal.

Only 18pc drivers use belts

ACCORDING to a recent survey by the Kuwait Public Health Ministry only 18 per cent of drivers in the country used the safety belt, a percentage which is far below levels in other parts of the world. Strict penalties will raise the percentage of current users of safety belts among drivers, the study recommended.

The survey revealed that 36 per cent of total road accidents led to serious injuries, while the accidents involving head on collisions between two vehicles account for 12 per cent of the total percentage and are considered the most dangerous of all.

The director of the Road Safety Society, Ibrahim Shergawi said that the idea of using the safety belt does not need any support or objection as it is but a logical need for safety on the road. This aspect takes on added significance when we learn that 50 per cent of injuries caused to front seat passengers can be averted by wearing the belt.

He said that the commitment by all drivers to wear the safety belt must reflect a respect of traffic regulations, and not a fear of penalties.

Hussam Abdul Halim, said that driving is full of surprises and that one could be fatal to the driver. Therefore one should not risk driving without the safety belt, as the life of the human being is all what

counts when an accident takes place. He said that all drivers in the Western countries wear the safety belt as an act second to their nature. However, in our country where the rate of traffic accidents is among the highest in the world, very few care to wear the belt.

Zayed Ahmad pointed out that a strict law is needed to ensure that all drivers wear their safety belt, particularly where the speed limit is over 60, adding that even if the driving distance is only a few hundred metres, the belt must be used.

He stressed that the safety belt was not designed for nothing, and that its true value will be appreciated only in the unfortunate occurrence of an accident which then would have saved the driver from sustaining serious injuries.

Mooa Awni said that she wholeheartedly supported the enforcement of a mandatory clause on wearing the safety belt by drivers, whether on interior or exterior roads.

She added that the use of the belt commands high level of awareness by the driver, and that only those who appreciate the fact of road unpredictability are truly able to treasure the benefits of this safety device.



GCC scouts meeting

Under the auspices of the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education Abdourahman Al Khodari, the GCC scouting training programmes officials met recently.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by a number of senior officials at the Ministry of Education and the chairman of Kuwait Scouts Society. The meetings were attended by representatives from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Khodari speaking at the ceremony, confirmed the importance of the scouts movement towards serving of the community. He then decorated 14 scout officials representing the country's five education areas with medals.

Drivers complain of transportation ban

By Fawzi Al Tamimi

ALSEYASSAH has interviewed a number of bus drivers who have been negatively affected by the recent decision banning the use of buses for transporting students and company staff, due to the frequency of traffic violations.

Duhaim Al Dosari, a bus driver said that the decision caused great harm to him and his family. The bus was my only source of living he said and added that he is under obligation to transport working staff of a local company to their work sites on time, otherwise he will be fined KD 50.

Dilemma

He added that the problem now is worse as there is no one to buy the bus for its true value. Additionally, he commented that he is no longer able to process the ownership transfer or registration transactions.

Mohammad Abdullah Al Shimali, a retired employee, said that he owned a number of buses

which are used by private companies and Kuwait University and that the prohibitive decision is ill-timed and suggests no alternatives.

Khalawi Al Ajemi said that he owned three buses used by private companies under contractual agreements which discount KD 50 per day in the case of delay to transport workers on time.

He pointed out that these buses are the source of bread for many families and the traffic police issued tickets for these buses because they are not registered with these companies.

Naser Mohammad Al Qahani said that his buses are used to transport students and workers in the private sector, and that he is 60 years of age and has 25 children whose main source of income is these buses, and the decision cut the supply source of their daily bread.

Saad Al Dihan appealed to the Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem to reconsider the decision which jeopardised the interests of the people.

Secretary required

2401555
2406911

CONDOLENCE

We express our heartfelt condolences to
Mr. S.K. Gandhi
(General Manager of Mubarak Al-Sultan Trading Corp.) and his family on the sad and sudden demise of his
mother
on 18th May.
May her soul rest in peace.
Mubarak Sultan & Staff.

For your advertisement

Please contact
Advertising
Department

4816326/
Tel: 4816327

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE one serious conviction that a man should have is that nothing is to be taken too seriously — Samuel Butler, English writer (1835-1902).

Prestige battered Soviet forces' role curtailed

WASHINGTON, (CSM): These are tough times for the Soviet military. Its prestige has been battered by the Afghan war. Its tanks are running home from Eastern Europe as the Warsaw Pact disintegrates. Its influence in Moscow has been diminished by perestroika, while at the same time it pulls policy duty in Lithuania and other restive Soviet republics.

Now the generals may be trying to fight back, say military analysts in the United States. With President Gorbachev's programmes drawing increasing criticism at home, senior military commanders are beginning to speak out on basic policy. Resurgent military clout might be the reason the Soviets have recently taken a harder line in arms control negotiations.

There's no doubt that the Soviet military is under a great deal of stress, said Henry Rowan, US assistant defence secretary for international security affairs, at a recent meeting with reporters.

Chief of the Soviet general staff Mikhail Moiseyev has put off a mid-May visit to the United States indefinitely, saying he must help prepare for the May 30 Bush-Gorbachev summit. Though new to his job, Gen Moiseyev is said to play a much more active role in arms control policy than did his predecessor, Marshal Sergei Akhromyev.

Policy

"The high command seems more predisposed to be drawn into the political fray," says Robert Nurick, a Rand analyst of Soviet defense policy.

In the Brezhnev era, to be a member of the Soviet armed forces was to be part of arguably the most powerful and prestigious institution in the nation. The military had first call on scarce raw materials, and many Soviet weapons were the equal of those produced in the more technologically sophisticated West.

That status began to slip in the late 1970s as the economic weakness of the Soviet Union became apparent, according to US experts. When Gorbachev took over, the slide became a free fall.

Like a shrewd politician consolidating his power, Gorbachev moved to take control of the military structure. By 1989, the military high command had been almost completely replaced. The new commanders were on average 10 years younger than their predecessors. Many had served in Afghanistan. According to a Rand Corporation study, they were distinguished not by enthusiasm for perestroika (economic restructuring) but by evident sensitivity to unrest in the ranks of the military itself.

To diminish the military's political clout, Gorbachev and his allies began to attack it in public. In one notable speech Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze criticized military decision-making and called the country's chemical weapons programmes something motivated by "primitive and distorted" notions.

Concessions

The Kremlin also set policies that cut against the military grain, from unilateral force cuts in Europe, to the Afghan withdrawal, to the many Soviet concessions made to arms talks. While military commanders may have agreed with many of these moves, the speed and unpredictability of Gorbachev's policy was unsettling.

Though the military appears to share many of Gorbachev's broader foreign policy goals, "senior military commanders have been very reluctant to pay the price" in force reductions that Gorbachev wants, according to a Rand study.

And while Gorbachev has been attacking the military from without, it has been beset by troubles within. Low pay and long hours have always been the lot of the largely conscripted rank and file, now officers' lives are apparently worsening as well. There is no longer enough officer housing to go around. Defense Minister Dmitry Yazov recently told a Soviet reporter there are 7,500 officers without apartments in Moscow alone. The decline in social status of the officer corps has been so rapid that they are now prime targets for crime and murder. Soviet military publications show that 59 officers were killed last year, according to Harriet Fast Scott, a Washington consultant on the Soviet military.

Tensions

Ethnic tensions rippling through the country as a whole are if anything worse in the armed forces. While officers remain largely ethnic Russian and Slav, an increasing percentage of conscripts are from Central Asia and other far-flung parts of the country and speak Russian poorly, if at all.

The Soviet draft-age cohort is "up to 40 per cent Muslim," says Alexander Alexiev, a Rand specialist in Soviet nationalities.

The Soviet practice of sending young draftees far from their home for service has been a spark lighting the nationalist revolt in the Baltics and other separatist republics. Baltic draftees face fierce ethnic hazing, and perhaps worse — in 1986 an Estonian separatist group reported that 12 Estonian draftees were shot during a protest strike against their work cleaning up the Chernobyl nuclear plant. Gen. Moiseyev has said that draft evasion last year was eight times the level of 1985.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1506 — Explorer Christopher Columbus dies in Spain.
- 1631 — Flemish Count Tilly's imperialist army sacks Magdeburg in Germany, causing heavy carnage and almost complete destruction by fire.
- 1799 — France's Napoleon Bonaparte abandons siege of Acre, defended by the Turks.
- 1882 — Italy joins Austro-German alliance, which becomes triple alliance.
- 1917 — French forces in Champagne, France, mutiny in World War I.
- 1920 — Mexico's president Carranza is assassinated, is succeeded by Adolfo de la Huerta.
- 1927 — US aviator Charles A. Lindbergh begins solo flight across Atlantic Ocean.
- 1929 — Japanese troops evacuate Shantung.
- 1943 — United States and Britain ratify treaty abolishing extra-territorial rights in China.
- 1964 — France's president Charles de Gaulle proposes international conference to restore peace and neutrality in Indochina kingdom of Laos.
- 1967 — Communist MiG planes challenge US jets over North Vietnam, and US pilots claim five, possibly six, MiGs are shot down.
- 1971 — Nine Soviet Jews on trial in Leningrad are convicted of anti-Soviet activity and wounding 40 people.
- 1974 — Libya and Soviet Union conclude agreements for increased trade and Soviet weapons aid to Tripoli.
- 1983 — US president Ronald Reagan's administration lifts nearly year-long embargo on sale of advanced F-16 fighter planes to Israel, imposed after Israel invaded Lebanon.
- 1984 — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher vows that violence will not win in Britain's 10-week-old coal strike where confrontations have sparked 2,700 arrests, 300 reported injuries and one death.
- 1985 — Three Israeli soldiers are exchanged for 1,150 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in a simultaneous swap at Geneva airport and the Middle East.
- 1988 — About 9,000 security men begin raiding hideouts of suspected Sikh radicals in three districts in India's troubled Punjab state.
- 1989 — Afghan President Najib proposes three-man peace commission to work toward end of civil war.

Ceausescu ghost still haunts

Clean break with past elusive

BUCHAREST, (Reuter): Romanian hopes of a clean break with communism after the bloody revolution last December have been dampened by the inability to exorcise the ghost of Nicolae Ceausescu.

Romania now appears set to give overwhelming support in the first free elections for 50 years to a government which admits it has leftist leanings, and which critics say contains the remnants of a communist regime.

The National Salvation Front, a loose grouping of former communists, dissidents and intellectuals that has run the country since Ceausescu was overthrown last December, is tipped to easily win today's election.

Its main opponents, the centrist National Liberal Party and the right-wing National Peasants Party, both existed before Romania became communist after World War II and were revived after the revolution.

Disappointed

Many Romanians are disappointed at what they say is a sluggish rate of reform, although there is no doubt major changes have taken place since Ceausescu was executed on Dec 25.

The fear of strangers and foreigners instilled under Ceausescu has been widely dispelled, dissent is voiced loudly and clearly and Romanians are able to for the first time in their lives to act more or less freely.

But the provisional authorities have been unable to come to grips with the more deep-rooted problems left behind by the communists.

Shop shelves are still bare, children are still dying in crowded and dirty hospitals, factories are crippled by having to use old machines and Romanians' pay packets are small.

The average Romanian factory or office worker takes home about 2,500 lei (\$125) a month. The cheapest car costs 80,000 lei (\$4,000), a Soviet-made television costs 12,000 lei (\$550) and a kilo of meat costs 53.

"To be honest the main effect of the revolution for me has been to make things more expensive," said one Bucharest housewife.

The economy, drained by Ceausescu's obsession with paying off the country's foreign debt, is a mess. All economic indicators point downwards, except for consumer sales and imports destined to feed a hungry nation.

Guide

Interim President Ion Iliescu has announced he would guide Romania towards a Western-style economy, but has also indicated a reluctance to cave in to capitalism.

"The market economy does not only have virtues. It leads to polarisation of wealth and poverty, to unemployment," he said recently.

Corruption, seen by many Romanians as a necessary evil in the Ceausescu era, has not been affected by the revolution.

Many doctors and lawyers have to be paid — in Kent cigarettes or in dollars — for any kind of consultation, and some public officials still need their palms greased regularly to ensure service.

Government spokesman Cristian Uteanu acknowledged the country still faced serious problems, but argued that the National Salvation Front was working as quickly as possible.

"Romania's problems cannot be solved over-

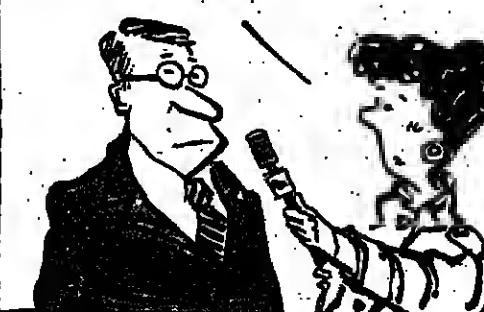
CONGRESSMAN — CAMPAIGN COSTS ARE OUT OF CONTROL...



... AND TELEVISION EXPENSES ARE A BIG PART OF THE PROBLEM



DO YOU SUPPORT FREE AIR TIME FOR CANDIDATES?



SO WE CAN TAP A BIGGER POOL OF CONTRIBUTORS?!



night. It would be political suicide to say the contrary," he told Reuters.

Sunday's elections will pit the Front and its presidential candidate Ion Iliescu against Liberal leader Radu Campeanu and Peasant Party candidate Ion Ratiu.

Criticism that the Front is a neo-communist organisation has come mainly from intellectuals and students, a vociferous but small grouping.

Outside Bucharest and other large cities, support for the Front appears rock solid as the population is chary of changing the status quo.

Pre-election opinion polls indicate Iliescu and the Front will win at least 60 per cent of the vote in the elections for two parliamentary chambers and the presidency.

Campeanu is tipped to win about 13 per cent and Ratiu about five per cent. The two opposition candidates, both of whom have alleged physical intimidation of their supporters, have been accused of returning from rich exploits to seek power.

Colleague

They retort that Iliescu was once a close colleague of Ceausescu, that he was even being groomed to succeed him before they quarrelled. Iliescu held an important, ministerial-level post until 1984.

Controversy about the origins of the Romanian revolution cast a shadow over the National Salvation Front when it was revealed that it had existed for up to six months before the people took to the streets in December.

Fear prompts Albania reforms

TIRANA, (Reuter): Fear of a Romanian-style bloody revolution has pushed Albania's leaders towards reform, according to dissidents involved in unprecedented protests.

But the man Albanians see as the champion of change, President Ramiz Alia, has to tackle an entrenched old guard which dissidents say opposes any retreat from hardline rule in Europe's last orthodox communist state.

The dissidents and witnesses have confirmed three protests this year in this Balkan country of just over three million people which is now opening up to the world after four decades of isolation under late Stalinist founder Enver Hoxha.

They comprise a silent rally in Tirana in late January, clashes with police and the chanting of pro-Alia, anti-Hoxha slogans at a soccer match in March, and an eight-hour strike by 2,000 textile workers in the central town of Berat about one

month ago.

One worker involved in the strike, believed to be the first in Albania since World War II, said strikes scrawled insults against Hoxha on factory walls.

It is the old-guard attachment to Hoxha's legacy of iron rule that the dissidents see as the main brake on Alia, who succeeded Hoxha as state and party leader on his death in 1985.

They cite the late leader's wife Nexhmije, 68-year-old chairwoman of the Albanian Democratic Front Mass Movement, as the head of the old-guard faction.

Dissidents and many of Albania's dissatisfied youth regard Alia as a genuine reformer, serious about change. But some dissidents doubt his ability to succeed with the old guard in place.

"The political and economic life in our country is strongly controlled by the conservatives led by Mrs Hoxha," a statement made to Reuters by two dis-

sidents said.

It said Alia reforms last week relaxing central control of the sinking economy and restoring some human rights repressed under Hoxha may be good but were "no guarantee against the Stalinist cult of personality."

Alia and others in the communist leadership say reform will come gradually but has been no official denouncing of Hoxha's policies and person.

"If you run you can fall," Foreign Minister Reiz Malile said on Sunday, suggesting reformers may fear a headline backlash if they move too fast.

Dissidents and diplomats say anti-communist uprisings in Eastern Europe last year — in particular the violent overthrow and execution of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu — sent a shiver of fear through Albania's leaders.

Letters to the editor

Blatant accusation

SIR: This is in reference to Muhammad Ali's letter of May 2, in which he blatantly accuses MQM of terrorism in Karachi. Well, to put the records straight I will try to answer his allegations one by one.

First of all, Alvi blamed Mohajirs, for calling themselves Mohajirs; well to answer this, we have to go back to the time of independence of Pakistan. Pakistan was created, on the belief that, Hinduism and Islam are two different religions, with different cultural backgrounds, and there are bound to be conflicts in future.

At the time there were two types of people who were fighting for their country, some who were already settled in present Pakistan, and some who were on the Indian soil, but opted to migrate to their new country, Pakistan. The latter were very well settled in India, but they sacrificed their lands, homes, their children were butchered in front of their eyes, but they had only one thing in their minds is patriotism, that this is where we really belong, and this soil now needs us more than ever.

These migrants came from all over India. All these migrants were Punjabis, Sindhis, etc. had their ethnic roots over here, except Urdu-speaking people, so they had no problems in getting settled, but the problem was for Urdu-speaking people who didn't have any ethnic or cultural base.

At that time all the people were treated equally in the government sector. There was no discrimination, as it was the initial phase, so everybody was full of patriotism. The problem started when people started getting settled in their ethnic bases. Government jobs were made to fulfill the requirements, on the basis of province or tribe, Baluchistan, Punjab, Sindh, etc.

Alvi also advised that Mohajirs, Punjabis etc living in Sindh should blend themselves in Sindh culture, well, even though it is difficult, but all the non-Sindhis who are settled or were settled in rural Sindh, have totally become Sindhis in all respect, they speak Sindhi, they respect their customs, and it is difficult to distinguish between them.

Alvi also accuses the MQM leader Altaf Hussain as a born terrorist. Well, Alvi, BBC correspondents who have attended MQM rallies several times have reported that they have never seen such well-disciplined rallies.

Alvi accused MQM of terrorism, but can you tell what Alvi Zulfikar was, and whether it was involved in hijacking a plane, bank robberies, political assassinations, etc? Again, press reports are living proof of their

deeds, and not just blarney, and is it not true that all hard-core criminals, were released when the PPP came to power?

Why is it that the same pattern of armed robberies and kidnappings have started taking place in Punjab? Because the Punjab government is against the PPP, and wants to teach a lesson to the people of Punjab.

Shamim Pervez Halder, Safat.

Soviet pilgrims

SIR: I thank the government of the USSR for their recent decision to allow the Muslims to visit Makkah to perform Haj.

All of us are fully aware that due to the social system in the USSR the Muslims are, like others, not in a position to bear the expenses to perform Haj at probably Makkah is the longest route for Russian Muslims than other Muslims of the world except Chinese Muslims.

Therefore, I suggest and request the Organisation of Islamic Conference and Arab League to arrange to bear a percentage of the cost of travel for the Muslims who intend to visit Makkah for the purpose. I do not think the number will be too many. However, they may declare that some 100 persons from among the applicants will be getting the facilities by ballot.

I appeal to the present chairman of the OIC to take appropriate decision and show to the Muslims of the world, wherever they might be, that Muslims of other places are always with them.

Ziauddin, Safat.

Albanian Muslims

SIR: At long last Albania has decided to open its border for foreigners and allow Albanians to have passports.

As it is a good omen that the mosques and churches will be allowed to function again.

Albania was and is a predominantly Muslim country, therefore, I feel it is the duty of all the Muslims of the world to help them rebuild their Islamic culture and Islam. The Muslim countries of the world should come forward and help in every possible manner. The

mosques should be repaired, rebuilt and Islamic schools be established for religious teachings.

OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference) should send a high powered delegation to investigate how to help Albania and its Muslim population within the shortest possible time as otherwise it may be too late.

I appeal to the OIC, to take appropriate and urgent steps as it has been doing in such cases always wherever required.

I also appeal to the oil-rich Arab countries to come forward and do something individually and collectively as quickly as possible.

Ziauddin, Safat.

Smoking menace

SIR: I would like to congratulate the Public Authority for Civil Aviation (Paca) for their noble decision. "No smoking at Airport" as appeared in Arab Times 14.5.90. I wonder why the Public Authority of Health Administration does not come up with a similar decision, "No smoking in hospital clinics".

It is horrible to find people smoking in the waiting rooms, reception halls, corridors, wards and even in the ICU of the hospital/clinic. It is still horrible to find that these people constitute the visitors, patients, hospital staff and even the doctors in their uniforms!

Is smoking a crime? Well, the answer should be available with the judiciary. But it is clear, without any question, that nobody has the right to pollute the atmosphere, particularly when it is health-care area.

Unless smoking is prohibited in these areas, only display of a "No smoking" sign will not work. Kuwait is already one of the highest smoking nations. Smoking oriented diseases (heart/lung) are also high here.

A Health Ministry decision like that of Paca and its strict implementation would definitely improve the situation.

Asrar ul Islam, Khalidiya.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Liberia

Doe puts gag on local press

MONROVIA, (Reuter): Do not try to talk to a Librarian any day at 5:09 pm — he will be listening to the news from London.

Everybody seems to tune in to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) for news of the rebellion raging in this West African country since December.

The reason for the daily huddles around radios on the seedy streets of the capital Monrovia is simple. The local media is prevented from covering the uprising.

As the rebel successes multiplied the government began complaining of misinformation in the local and foreign media.

President Samuel Doe said last month any journalist writing about rebel attacks in a particular area would be taken there by the army to prove the story. If he could not prove it the reporter would be considered a rebel and treated accordingly, Doe said.

"This is a veiled death threat," said one reporter.

None of the journalists or publishers interviewed for this article wished to be identified. They said they felt intimidated and frustrated that they could not report an uprising which has killed hundreds, forced more than one tenth of the 2.3 million population to flee abroad and virtually cut off half the country from the capital.

Acting Information Minister Moses Washington said the government required newspapers to check stories with it first to avoid spreading rumours and misinformation. He denied the press was gagged.

Doe told a news conference last week foreign journalists were free to come to Liberia, but then added: "We are fighting two wars, one against the rebels and one against the international press."

Reporting

Reporting in Liberia is as in many other West African countries can be like walking through a minefield. Stories on corruption, state oppression, or the foibles of powerful men can be hazardous to more than a reporter's career prospects.

A television editor was beheaded by soldiers at the presidential offices after an abortive coup against Doe in November 1985, according to a report by the United States-based Lawyers Committee for Human Rights. It said the editor, angered Doe by showing pictures of jubilant Liberians who thought the coup had succeeded.

Many print journalists have been in and out of prison for lesser "crimes" since Gen. Doe seized power in a bloody 1980 coup.

"Doe's ten years in power have been characterised by a wide range of abuses, including extra-judicial executions of civilians and soldiers, torture, arbitrary arrests, detention without trial, convictions on false charges after trials that lack due process, constraints on freedom of association, judiciary subordinate to the executive and suppression of press freedom," said a report published this month by the Washington-based human rights group Africa Watch.

The report, which detailed army killing and harassment of civilians during the uprising, was not carried by the local papers.

Speak out

"We know what's going on, we just can't write it," said one editor. "We have been trying to get around this by writing a lot of editorials and by burying bits of hard news deep in a story."

The Daily Observer, the country's leading daily, chose to speak out last month by saying nothing. The day after Doe held a news conference it printed a blank front page.

"That was the most eloquent protest I have seen," commented one diplomat. "Even the newspaper boys knew what it meant."

The Observer's office was set alight in March. A night guard said four men in military uniform started the fire.

For those Liberians who know how to read between the lines the press often shines a light in dark corners.

Many journalists are US-trained and they try to imitate the combative style of American papers. Liberia, which was founded by freed American slaves in 1847, has also copied the US political model, and Doe publicly supports freedom of the press. Liberia also has opposition papers.

With more than 10 titles the Liberian press did seem free until the rebellion than the media in many single-party West African countries.

One side effect of the crackdown has been a surge in the very rumours the government wanted to stamp out.

In the past few months the Monrovia rumour mill has had the president fleeing the country, US marines arriving to help the government and Israeli mercenaries doing the same.

"We would prefer formal military censorship to this state of affairs," said one senior journalist. "At least that way we could print all we know and hope at least some of it would get past the censor."

QUOTE ME

"The department and the centre are delighted at the prospect of a meeting between our members and President Gorbachev. It is the chance of a lifetime for these professional economists to contribute their expertise at a fundamental level." — Canadian officials on Gorbachev's visit to Canada.

"It's nice to be done with the test. Now the hard work really begins. You're only going to get one shot at qualifying. We've got to take it and see what happens." — Stu Walcott on attempting an Indy comeback after a 19-year absence.

"I want them, those political gurus, to understand that if you fight, you will enjoy it. If you do not fight, do not expect for someone to sweat and bleed and you come in later and take over." — Liberian rebel leader to exiled opposition politicians, especially in the US.

"I don't know, I'm just trying to be honest with you. The next four or five weeks, I'm just going to be sitting, talking and evaluating the whole thing. Not just me — Dr. Bums too. I'm addicted to coaching, the competition and intensity of the games, the 20-hour days. It's a routine. That would be it — to find something else that would give me that kind of joy." — Pat Riley Los Angeles Lakers coach on the possibility of quitting basketball.

Polls scheduled in Azad Kashmir amid war fears

MUZZAFARABAD, May 19, (UPI): The threat of another India-Pakistan war hung over the disputed area of Kashmir where elections take place Monday in the Pakistani-controlled section against the background of rising fears of another armed conflict.

Both the major parties of the nominally independent territory of "Azad" or "free" Kashmir have been exploiting the anti-India sentiments of its more than 3 million people by accusing the other of adopting a conciliatory attitude toward New Delhi.

Pakistan's opposition alliance, which backs the territory's ruling Muslim conference, and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's

party, which is supporting the People's Party of Azad Kashmir, have also traded charges of interfering in the election campaign in the rugged, impoverished region.

Analysts say whichever side wins could promote itself nationally as the most vociferous proponent of a tough stand against New Delhi in the dispute over Kashmir, but at the same time would be under pressure from the losing party to take some action on the issue.

Relations between India and Pakistan have nosedived since mid-January, when an uprising broke out against Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir state.

Islamabad morally supports the movement but has denied Indian charges it is training and arming the militants.

Officials say more than 5,000 refugees fleeing the unrest are now in the Pakistani sector. Many bear scars and bruises they say are the result of beatings by Indian soldiers.

Islamic Pakistan has lost three wars with predominantly Hindu India since 1948 involving the mostly Muslim region, which is divided along a UN-monitored ceasefire line into Azad Kashmir and Jammu and Kashmir state.

A 1949 UN resolution called for a plebiscite in Kashmir to decide the region's future, a poll

which has not taken place.

Observers say feelings are growing in Azad Kashmir in favour of a fourth conflict over the region.

"People here have decided that they want another war with India," said a local journalist in Muzaffarabad, the tiny Azad Kashmir capital set in a valley of the Himalayan foothills. "But they think Benazir is not interested in fighting."

Muslim Conference leaders, profiting from such sentiments, have linked the party with late president Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, a staunch Muslim who died in a mysterious plane crash in 1988. During his 11-year rule

relations with India remained icy.

"The Muslim Conference says Zia formed a strong Pakistan and that if he was alive today Kashmir would be free," said the journalist.

The tactic may be working.

The Muslim Conference is working for Islam and for the liberation of Kashmir," said Mohammed Khan, the owner of a transport company in Muzaffarabad. "The People's Party doesn't care about freeing Kashmir."

The PP has alleged the territory's ruling party has done nothing during its five years in power to aid the cause of the militants in Jammu and Kashmir and charges it would fail

to honour the UN resolution calling for a plebiscite.

"The Muslim Conference stands for accession to Pakistan," said Syed Qazmi, People's Party president in Muzaffarabad. "They have already sealed the fate of the Kashmiris. We believe the Kashmiris should be given a choice."

However, the Muslim conference has the support of the Jamaat-Islami, a prominent Muslim fundamentalist party linked to militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir. "We want Pakistan to support us in all things, and that includes supplying us with weapons," said Mohammad Maqbool,

US moves to defuse tension

Gates to meet Benazir in Sanaa

ISLAMABAD, May 19, (Reuters): A high level United States government mission began efforts today to draw Pakistan and India back from the brink of war over a Muslim uprising in Indian-ruled Kashmir. President George Bush's Deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gates was flying to the North Yemen capital Sanaa to meet Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who is on a Middle East tour.

US officials said he was due in the Pakistani capital Islamabad for more talks on Sunday before meeting Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh in New Delhi on Monday.

Pakistan has welcomed the US attempt to reduce tension between the two traditional enemies, but Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral made clear this week New Delhi would not accept third party mediation.

"Our line is very clear. We want a reduction in tension. We want a reduction in rhetoric and we would like the Indians to do something politically to solve the Kashmir problem," a senior Pakistani diplomat said.

In New Delhi, an official said India wanted Gates to persuade Pakistan to stop young militants infiltrating from Pakistan's Azad (free) Kashmir across the ceasefire line that divides the region.

North Yemen is Bhutto's fifth stop on an eight-nation tour of Middle Eastern and African countries designed to bolster support for Pakistan's stand over Kashmir.

She strongly supports politically a militant campaign by 'freedom-fighters' against Indian rule in the two-thirds of Kashmir it controls.

Pakistan's demand that India be allowed to choose their own future, but India is equally adamant in declaring that its Jammu and Kashmir state is irrevocably part of India.

It blames Pakistan for fomenting the armed uprising in which more than 300 people have died this year.

Gates' main mission, according to Western diplomats and Pakistani analysts in Islamabad, is to prevent a war of words between the two countries sliding into their fourth armed conflict since they became independent in 1947.

"It is hard to see what he can do except try to reduce the tension," a senior Western diplomat said. "Both sides are so entrenched. It is like they are going down a dark tunnel with no light at the end."

Both countries have strengthened their defences by moving extra troops onto their long border, he said. Pakistan claims

Pak design on Kashmir

Instability

NEW DELHI, May 19, (Reuters): India's external affairs minister said Pakistan's real design in Kashmir was to foment communal tension and recreate the kind of instability that swept India in 1947.

"Pakistan knows and is aware that it cannot take Kashmir by force. Its real design is to foment communal tension and to create a situation of 1947," Inder Kumar Gujral told a private meeting of senior members of Parliament on Thursday.

External Affairs Ministry sources said yesterday that Gujral was responding to the members' demand for an assessment of Pakistan's designs in Kashmir.

"Pakistan's assault is not only against India but its secular beliefs," the sources quoted Gujral as saying.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since their independence from Britain in 1947, the year of partition when thousands of Hindus and Muslims were killed in communal riots.

On Thursday, Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh accused Pakistan of creating war hysteria and said India was prepared to meet any threat.

Singh, who heads a minority government, is under constant

attack from former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi who has accused the new leader of pushing the country close to a fourth war.

Gujral, trying to bolster Singh's image in the face of opposition attacks, also told the members on Thursday that India welcomed a dialogue with Pakistan but no third party mediation.

Pakistan has appealed to the United Nations Security Council to call on India to stop "its suppression of Kashmiri people and work for a settlement based on UN resolutions."

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said India was checking on Islamabad's demand and refused to comment on it.

After the first Indo-Pakistani war in 1947, a UN resolution called for a plebiscite in Kashmir to determine the future of the disputed territory, of which India rules two-thirds and Pakistan the rest.

India maintains that after the 1971 war, the Simla accord between the two neighbours called for bilateral negotiations to resolve the dispute.

More than 300 people have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since mid-January when secessionists intensified their campaign for independence.

India has also moved an offensive strike corps into the Rajasthan desert.

"Both sides say they don't want war and it's hard to believe

they would be so stupid," the diplomat said. "My gut feeling is there won't be war but you never know where these two are concerned."



Election Campaign

Workers of the ruling Muslim Conference Party of Pakistan Azad (free) Kashmir chant slogans at an election campaign at Muzaffarabad. Prime Minister

Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party is the main rival in the May 21 polls. (Reuters wirephoto)

Film man detained for tax violation

BOMBAY, May 19, (UPI): A 20th Century Fox film company official was arrested in Bombay on charges of violating India's foreign exchange and income tax laws, and investigators seized \$6.4 million in connection with the case, an official said today.

P. V. Prahu, manager of 20th Century Fox Corporation India Ltd, an Indian subsidiary of the US-based film production company, was arrested yesterday and later released on bail, said an official of the enforcement directorate, the vigilance wing of the Finance Ministry.

The arrest followed searches by authorities of company offices and of Prahu's residence, during which the money was confiscated and company records were recovered, the official said.

He said that Prahu and 20th Century Fox were accused of violating India's foreign exchange and income tax laws.

They also were accused of illegally receiving commissions for distributing films of other production companies, the official said.

The company is permitted to operate in India only as a liaison office and is not allowed to receive commissions for distribution work, the official said.

They also were accused of illegally receiving commissions for distributing films of other production companies, the official said.

The company is permitted to operate in India only as a liaison office and is not allowed to receive commissions for distribution work, the official said.

They also were accused of illegally receiving commissions for distributing films of other production companies, the official said.

The company is permitted to operate in India only as a liaison office and is not allowed to receive commissions for distribution work, the official said.

They also were accused of illegally receiving commissions for distributing films of other production companies, the official said.

The company is permitted to operate in India only as a liaison office and is not allowed to receive commissions for distribution work, the official said.

They also were accused of illegally receiving commissions for distributing films of other production companies, the official said.

The company is permitted to operate in India only as a liaison office and is not allowed to receive commissions for distribution work, the official said.

They also were accused of illegally receiving commissions for distributing films of other production companies, the official said.

The company is permitted to operate in India only as a liaison office and is not allowed to receive commissions for distribution work, the official said.

They also were accused of illegally receiving commissions for distributing films of other production companies, the official said.

The company is permitted to operate in India only as a liaison office and is not allowed to receive commissions for distribution work, the official said.

They also were accused of illegally receiving commissions for distributing films of other production companies, the official said.

Sind violence flares

Ten killed in Lahore blast

HYDERABAD, May 19, (Agencies): Gunmen killed two people today in this southern city, bringing the death toll in a weeklong outburst of violence to 29, police said.

About a dozen shops were set afire today. Paramilitary troops, soldiers and riot police were patrolling the streets of this city of 700,000 to try to control the violence.

Yesterday gunmen killed two people during a two-hour curfew break in the city, hospital sources said.

Twenty-nine people have now been killed in ethnic violence in the past week, including 13 in the city of Karachi.

Police said a young man was killed by a gunman during the curfew break and a six-year-old girl was shot dead inside her home by a stray bullet.

About 20 people including three policemen were also injured in sporadic shootings in Hyderabad.

In Karachi, one man was shot dead on the street and the body of a second man was recovered. There was no confirmation how he died.

A senior member of a political party representing refugees from India was killed on Thursday night by a volley of shots fired from a car.

A powerful bomb exploded in the one of Lahore's most congested districts yesterday, killing 10 people and injuring at least 54 others, police said.

The blast occurred at 7 pm (1400 GMT) near a popular movie theatre as a massive crowd was leaving, police said. The bomb was hidden in a wooden box placed under a bench, they said.

At least 10 of the injured were in critical condition, police said. The bomb exploded near a Suzuki pick-up parked close to a cinema in Bhathi Chowk at 7 pm, peak rush hour.

The site of the explosion is about 100 yards from the Dasta Darbar mausoleum of Saint Dasta Ganj Bakhsh.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast, the second in as many weeks to rock this ancient city. But authorities suggested that agents working for the government of neighbouring India might be involved.

Lahore, the provincial capital of Punjab, is located about 15 kms (10 miles) from the border with India. New Delhi blames Pakistan for two violent secessionist movements in the Indian states of Punjab and Jammu-Kashmir.

Pakistan's Urdu-language newspaper have suggested India might be involved in a recent rash of bombings in Lahore, Islamabad and neighbouring Rawalpindi.

Police have blamed rival ethnic parties for the relentless shootings.

Members of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, a militant Indian immigrant party, are opponents of Sindhi nationalists demanding independence or greater autonomy. The MQM wants to be recognised as a fifth nationality in Pakistan, along with the Pathans, Baluchis, Sindhis and Punjabis.

India protests sale of Mirage

Aussie-Pak deal

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 18: India has conveyed its strong objections to Australia over its move to sell 50 Mirage-III aircraft to Pakistan, and has called for a review of the deal.

External Affairs Minister Inder Kumar Gujral has written to his Australian counterpart Senator Gareth Evans in this regard.

Australia signed the deal worth US \$27 million on April 15, though India was informed about it only on April 24 in Canberra. The same day, Australian defence minister announced the sale.

The Australian-built Mirages were constructed under licence by the Australian government aircraft factory. The Commonwealth corporation also built the engines for the Mirages under licence.

Since then, India has made known its serious concern to the Australian authorities in New Delhi and in Canberra.

India said the decision was "most unfortunate and regrettable", particularly in the context of the current tension prevailing in the subcontinent. It is not calculated to send a message of restraint to Pakistan, nor will it contribute to the stabilisation of the situation, which is the stated aim of Australian policy in the region, "Australia was told.

It was also pointed out that the decision was particularly unfortunate in the context of the traditional friendly relations between India and Australia.

"The Australian decision, particularly at this juncture, ignoring the interest of peace and stability, is a negative development in the context of bilateral relations between India and Australia," Gujral told the Lok Sabha.

Australian acting Foreign Minister Neil Blewett has stated in a radio interview that his country would reconsider the sale if there was any deterioration in relations between India and Pakistan. He also stated that the planes would not be operationally available to Pakistan for at least six months and may be up to nine months.

Two days ago 13 policemen attached to the Samanthurulo police station in eastern province, returning after rugby football practice were abducted by cadres of the LTTE, severely assaulted and released after three hours. All the policemen had to be hospitalised.

A government communique today said in Batticaloa, also in the eastern province, a platoon commander of the Sri Lanka army's volunteer force, Lt K. Gnanasundarajah and second Lt Asmadulla, were abducted by the LTTE yesterday and their whereabouts were not known.

All Sinhalese shop-owners in eastern Trincomalee town have been asked by the LTTE to pay 250 rupees, 300 rupees and 1,000 rupees each depending on their sales.

Janata Dal chief Bommai elected

NEW DELHI, May 19, (Reuters): South Indian politician Somappa Bommai was today elected president of the Janata Dal, the main constituent of an alliance ruling India.

Bommai replaces Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who gave up the post in February this year. Singh quit the post, advocating a one-person-one-post policy.

Finance Minister Madhu Danavate said Bommai's election was unopposed after the withdrawal of two other candidates, each backed by powerful factions.

Political analysts said Bommai's election strengthened the position of deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, who openly backed him. It was a setback for Singh's supporters, who backed one of the withdrawn candidates.

Labour unrest in Nepal

KATHMANDU, May 19, (Reuters): Nepal's gallop towards multiparty democracy has spawned a wave of labour unrest that the new reformist government and businessmen, unaccustomed to strikes, are finding difficult to confront.

Businessmen have said that they faced strong pressure from unions springing up in the new atmosphere of freedom. They said many companies simply could not meet demands from employees in one of the world's poorest countries.

"Some of the demands are unreasonable," said Banwari Lal Mittal, president of the Nepal chamber of commerce. "In one industry, workers wanted compensation for the deaths of their fathers-in-law and mothers-in-law."

"What have we got to do with the in-laws of employees?"

The month-old interim government of liberals and communists, which came to power after pro-democracy demonstrations that sometimes ended in violence, has set up a special commission to investigate workers' demands.

On Wednesday, workers stormed the Finance Ministry with a long list of demands, including better pay and conditions, and hurled abuse at senior officials in their offices.

That prompted a cabinet appeal for workers to be "patient, disciplined and dutiful", and a warning from Labour Minister Nilamhar Acharya that "some people want to create problems for the government to create instability in the country."

Acharya did not say whom he meant, but some leftist groups have blamed the royal palace for outbreaks of violence, saying King Birendra does not really want to give up power despite his agreement to become a constitutional monarch and to support elections within a year.

To add to the government's problems, workers at 48 quasi-government organisations, including banks and factories, have demanded that their bosses be fired for corruption.

Tigers kill 15 in Bangladesh

DHAKA, May 19, (Reuters): Tigers in Bangladesh's coastal Sunderbans forest have killed at least 15 people and injured nearly a dozen this month, forest officials said yesterday.

The victims were attacked while fishing, cutting wood or collecting honey in the tidal forest.

"Tiger attacks have suddenly increased in recent weeks and sometimes they encroach into villages," villager Mihir Bhandari told reporters in Khulna district.

Forest officials said at least 200 people were killed by Sunderbans tigers in 1989.

A 1982 ban on hunting tigers has been almost ineffective and increased poaching in the forest has turned some of its 600 royal Bengal tigers into man-eaters, the officials said.

Tiger skins smuggled to Singapore and other countries can sell for \$1,600 each.



Benazir addresses a press conference in Amman as Mudar Badran (right) looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)

Japan offers mediation between India and Pakistan

NEW DELHI, May 19, (Kuna): Japan has expressed its willingness to play a positive role to facilitate a dialogue between India and Pakistan to defuse tension in the region.

However, the mediation offer is subject to consent of the two countries.

In a letter to Indian prime minister Japanese Premier Toshiki Kaifu recommended a meeting between Indian Prime Minister V P Singh and Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to sort out the current problems between their countries.

Kaifu, who recently paid a visit to India, Pakistan and some other South Asian nations, felt encouraged by his talks with V P Singh and Benazir to believe that there was shared desire on their part to respond positive gestures.

The letter is reported to have mentioned Japan's desire that peace should be restored in the region as soon as possible through a political process and dialogue. It was in that

context that Kaifu suggests that if there is any role to be played by Japan, it is ready with the understanding of both.

Exercise

Kaifu, during his visit to the South Asian countries, urged India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and settle their problems peacefully and through negotiations. He stated that peace and stability are vital for the progress of the region and extended Japan full co-operation for economic progress.

Lahore, the provincial capital of Punjab, is located about 15 kms (10 miles) from the border with India. New Delhi blames Pakistan for two violent secessionist movements in the Indian states of Punjab and Jammu-Kashmir.

Pakistan's Urdu-language newspaper have suggested India might be involved in a recent rash of bombings in Lahore, Islamabad and neighbouring Rawalpindi.

World News Roundup

America

King girl ordained: More than 20 years after Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his last sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church, one of his daughters stepped up to the same pulpit to deliver her first as a minister.

In an emotional service Monday that drew more than 300 people, Bernice Albertine King, 27, became the second woman ordained at the historic church.

Ms. King, the youngest of King's four children and the only one to go into the ministry, also graduated Monday from Emory University with a doctoral degree in law and divinity.

"This is the most humbling moment for me in my life," Ms. King said. "I am not worthy of this calling. No blood, no sweat, no tears could earn me this high calling." (AP)

Cat invited to Republican dinner: Max Woodbury got an invitation to dine with fat cats at a Republican Party fund-raising dinner attended by US President George Bush. But Max will probably stay home—perhaps doze in the sun, play with a ball of yarn or toy with a mouse.

The 2-year-old cat somehow wound up on the mailing list for the president's dinner, scheduled for June 12 in Washington.

Jennifer Woodbury said she and her husband are Democrats who never sent any contributions to either political party, so she has no idea how Max Woodbury got an invitation.

"The only thing I can think of is they got it off a mailing list," she said. "I sent away for dry flies from a mail order company and put it in Max's name" so the flies could be a surprise gift for her husband. (AP)

Named writer-in-residence: Ved Mehta, an author and staff writer for the magazine The New Yorker since 1961, has been named a writer-in-residence at Yale University.

The author will be a fellow for three years at Berkeley College, one of Yale's 12 colleges for undergraduates, the university announced Monday. He will teach a course on creative writing in the fall and on non-fiction next spring.

Two-headed calf is back: The two-headed calf is back. The public's fascination with a mounted two-headed calf has led a museum to put the oddity back on display.

The calf died at birth in 1922 and its heads were mounted and displayed at the West Overton Museum from about 1930 to 1987, said director Kimberly Bringe. The oddity was popular among museum visitors, especially children.

Still, Ms. Bringe thought no one would notice when she put the calf away because it was deteriorating.

She was wrong. Parents who had seen the calfs as children repeatedly asked about its whereabouts and several people offered to buy it. (AP)

Future woman president: Barbara Bush said someone in the university of Pennsylvania's class of 1990 "may be a future president of the United States—and I wish her well."

The US First Lady's mention of a future woman president brought the loudest applause and cheers Monday at the university's 234th commencement in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (AP)

Gorbachev to visit Minneapolis: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev will have it all when he visits this middle America city next month—cookies, a side of lamb, a bed, a car and even a walk-on part in Governor Geof's election campaign.

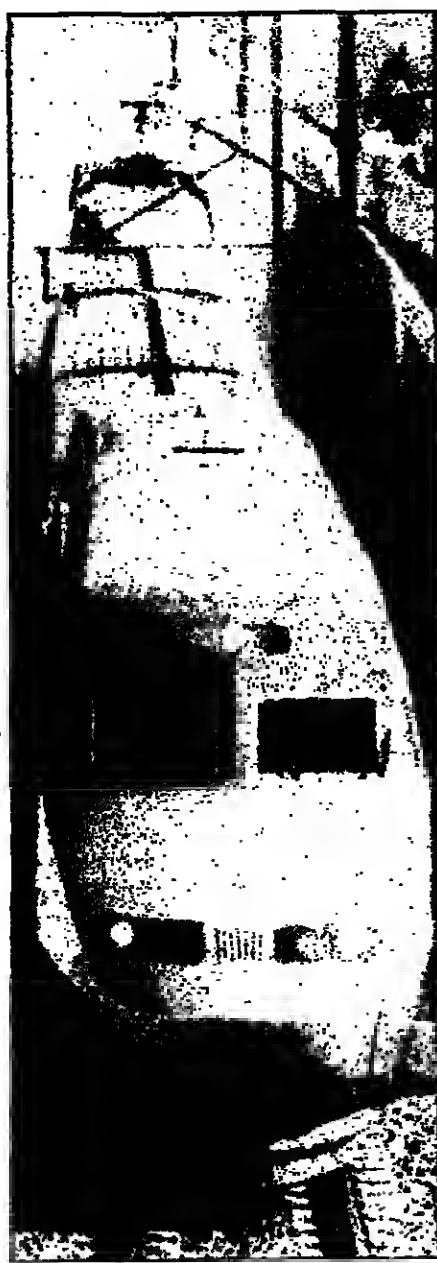
The office of the Minnesota Governor, Rudy Perpich, who has been sorely behind in the polls, has suddenly become a very lively place, as aides field request and suggestions for the upcoming Gorbachev visit. (Reuters)

Chernobyl radiation: Fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster in the Soviet Union travelled through the upper atmosphere to the south pole and fell as radioactive snow, researchers at the university of New Hampshire say.

In a letter published in the May 3 edition of Nature, a journal devoted to scientific discoveries, the group proposed that some of Chernobyl's radioactive isotopes penetrated the stratosphere, crossed the equator and fell in snowflakes. (AP)

Columbus arrival condemned: A resolution approved by the National Council of Churches condemns Christopher Columbus' "invasion" of the new world in 1492 because it resulted in church-supported racism, enslavement of Indians and moral decadence, the council said Friday in Pittsburgh.

The resolution approved Thursday night at a meeting of the governing board of the ecumenical Christian group was proposed by the Rev. George Tinker, an Osage Indian who teaches at the Tift School of Theology in Denver. (UPI)



Record breaker

France's high-speed passenger train Train a Grande Vitesse (TGV) breaks the world rail speed record at 153 km per hour (322 miles per hour) near Vendôme on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Plotting to kill 33 years in jail

ALEXANDRIA, Virginia, May 19 (AP): A man convicted of plotting to kill a boy as part of a movie was sentenced yesterday to 33 years in prison. No child was actually harmed.

"I've never had as heinous (a crime) as this," US district judge T.S. Ellis III said in sentencing Daniel Dewey. The judge called the case "as chilling and as evil as anything I can think of."

Ellis rejected a contention by the 28-year-old resident of Alexandria, a suburb of Washington, that talk of plans to kidnap, torture and kill a boy were merely a fantasy.

"There's no doubt in my mind that you intended to go through with it," Ellis said.

Dewey was convicted in March on two counts of conspiracy. He could have been sentenced to a life prison term.

The judge recommended that Dewey, who has AIDS, be sent to a federal prison where medical and mental treatment facilities are available. However, a final decision on his placement remains with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The sentence "adequately meets the goals of deterrent and retribution," the judge stated. But he added that he did not believe rehabilitation was possible in Dewey's case.

Dewey was silent at the hearing, but his attorney, James Lowe, noted that his client had presented a letter to Ellis saying he had not intended to proceed with the scheme.

Garbo's estate sues publishers: The estate of Great Garbo sued Simon and Schuster Inc. on Friday to stop distribution of a widely advertised biography of the reclusive film actress that is said to be based on interviews Garbo had with the author.

The suit, filed in Manhattan Federal Court, alleges that Garbo contributed to "Garbo: Her Story" by Antoni Gronowicz, due to be published next month. It says that the actress consented to any involvement with the book. (Reuters)

St Helens anniversary: A fog-drenched Mount St Helens slumbered through the 10th anniversary of its devastating eruption Friday but scientists warned that it could awaken with a vengeance.

The southwest Washington volcano killed 57 people and turned Verdant forests into an eerie lunar landscape with its May 18, 1980, eruption. There is a "high probability" of another major blast within the next 50 or 60 years, said geologist Dwight Crandell. (AP)

Miner's heirs claim gold: A legacy of gold left about 100 years ago by a pioneering Montana miner is finally in the hands of his heirs after it languished for years in a bank vault.

Two California women on Thursday claimed their great-grandfather's bequest, worth an estimated \$10,000 which was taken from the hills of Montana in the late 1800s.

The gold mined by John Lehou, a German immigrant and early Montana settler, was found in the vault of a Missoula bank early this year in a small cardboard box, said James McKoon of the revenue department's abandoned property bureau. (AP)

Europe

Scale to classify nuke mishaps:

Nuclear experts have invented a scale to classify the size of nuclear accidents, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Friday in Vienna.

An IAEA spokesman said the seven-point scale would be used to give the public and media an idea of the size of nuclear accidents in the same way as the open-ended Richter scale is used to classify earthquakes.

The scale runs from zero for events with no safety significance, to seven for a major accident such as "Chernobyl," the agency said in a statement. (Reuters)

Prince Philip talks to Bush: Britain's Prince Philip met with President George Bush Friday and then said he believes people will "put some pressure on" when they become aware of the potential effects of global warming.

In a question and answer session at the National Press Club after his brief stop at the White House, Philip was asked about Bush's suggestion in April that global warming needed further study. (AP)

Britain appoints: Britain announced the appointment on Friday of career diplomat Sir David Hannay as its new ambassador to the United Nations.

Hannay, 54, replaces Sir Crispian Tickell who held the post for three years and is retiring from the diplomatic service.

Since 1985 Hannay was served as Britain's permanent representative to the European Economic Community in Brussels. He entered the diplomatic service in 1959 and has also held posts in Kabul and Washington. (Reuters)

Supernatural visit: The tranquility of a normally peaceful village in south west England was shattered recently by what appeared to be a malevolent supernatural visit, it was reported in London Saturday.

Residents of the village of Fiddichinton, in Dorset, claimed their television sets emitted strange high-pitched noises, videos and other appliances turned themselves on and exploded, and light bulbs glowed white hot before springing out of their sockets. (Kuna)

Pope marks 70th birthday: Pope John Paul II turned 70 Friday but the Vatican marked the day with little fanfare and no public birthday party.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro said the Vatican was "overwhelmed" by messages and telephone calls pouring in from leaders around the world who were too numerous to name. (AP)

Germans scale Dhaulagiri: An 11-member German team scaled the 26,795-foot (8,167-m) Dhaulagiri, the world's seventh-tallest peak, on May 11 the Ministry of Tourism said Thursday in Kathmandu.

The team, led by Ralf Dujnovits, 29, started its final climb from its third camp at 24,300 feet (7,400 m) at 5 am and reached the summit six hours later by following a traditional route along the northeast ridge. (UPI)

Venice bid despite EEC vote: Italy's foreign minister pledged to continue his battle for Venice to hold a world fair, despite criticism that the plan would turn the canal city into a floating Disneyland.

"Our decision remains, there's no change. If you present the fair as a catastrophe then it's right to vote against it. But that is cheap propaganda," Gianni de Michelis told reporters. (Reuters)

Special status for art works:

European Economic Community culture ministers, worried their national treasures could be spirited away as frontier controls are relaxed, agreed on Friday art works should have special status in the EEC's single market.



Constant companions

Fairo the Saint Bernard (left) comes face-to-face with his lion cub playmate Juliet on Thursday at Silvers Circus in Sydney. The pair, constant companions since birth, are being trained for their stage debut in a few months. (Reuters wirephoto)

Off reading list because of 'wine' in basket

Little Red Riding Hood banned

CULVER CITY, California, May 19 (AP): First-grade readers of Little Red Riding Hood have more to fear than the big bad wolf, say school officials. It's the wine she has in her basket.

An award-winning adaptation of the classic Grimm's fairy tale has been pulled from the youngsters' recommended supplemental reading list because the heroine has wine in the basket of goodies she brings her ailing grandmother.

"It gives the younger ones the wrong impression about alcohol. If they should refrain, why give them a story saying it's OK?" said Vera Jashni, assistant superintendent for instruction.

"I don't think the basket of wine is a good concept for kindergarten or first grade," said school board member Robert Knopf. He said he would rather have seen "a nice thing like cookies and cakes or a picnic basket with food in it."

Ms. Jashni, who ordered the ban, said it was the final paragraph of the story that sealed her decision—the part after the woodsman kills the big bad wolf.

"The grandmother drank some of the wine, and... after a while, the grandmother felt quite strong and healthy, and began to clean up the mess that the wolf had left in the cottage."

The version of the story, written by Trina Schart Hyman, won a Caldecott honour award for children's literature.

Houghton-Mifflin Co., a Boston-based textbook publisher, distributed it as part of a 10-book package, and California education authorities placed it on the state's recommended supplemental reading list for 3- and 6-year-olds.

Knopf said it is the only book the Culver City school board has pulled.

Houghton-Mifflin spokesman Sandy Caswell said the ban was incomprehensible.

"The fact that it's an award-winning book, and one we felt was a good retelling of the story, led us to select it as part of the reading series," she said. Ms. Caswell added the company had received complaints about the book from three other school districts, all of them in California.

Africa

Abidjan to meet recruit demands: Two days after mutinous soldiers occupied Abidjan's airport, the government announced it would meet their demands for better pay and allowances, Ivory Coast radio said Friday.

The government sent armoured cars to the airport and promised to grant their demands before the soldiers left the airport Wednesday. French newspapers reported President Felix Houphouët-Boigny had asked for the intervention of a French battalion stationed at the airport, but Paris refused.

France said it would send a top police official to Abidjan to advise the government. (AP)

Coup plotters to be tried: A military tribunal will begin trying civilians and rebels soldiers next week for an April 22 coup attempt, and those convicted will face firing squads, a Nigerian military spokesman was quoted as saying Wednesday.

Col. Fred Chijuka said the accused would be defended by military lawyers appointed by the government. Lagos newspapers reported.

About 200 soldiers and more than 130 civilians have been detained for questioning by a panel in connection with the coup attempt. Last week the military government released 127 army officers and soldiers. (AP)

Unita rebels propose: A top official of Angola's Unita rebels arrived Thursday with proposals aimed at halting a 15-year-old civil war between the rebels and the southern African nation's Marxist government, reports said.

Tony Di Costa Fernandes, Unita's foreign affairs secretary, will deliver the proposals to a Portuguese government envoy, who will relay them to the Angolan capital of Luanda, said the Portuguese news agency Lusa. (AP)

Ostriches gaining popularity: The feisty African ostrich packs a 500-pound (225-kilo) kick and its rapier-like toe can rip open a man from chest to groin in a single blow.

So why mix with the world's largest and meanest bird?

Money, of course. Breeders say there is increasing demand for the ostrich's feathers, skin and high-protein, low-cholesterol meat.

Along with ostrich meat's newfound popularity among over-stressed executives and health nuts in Western industrialized nations, the Japanese have taken to preparing it sushi-style and eating it raw, says breeder Kevin Grant.

Asia

Stowaways seek asylum: Two Chinese stowaways claiming to be refugees from last year's Tiananmen Square crackdown were being held in jail Friday while their requests for political asylum were being considered, the Immigration and Naturalization Service said.

The two boarded separate container ships in Hong Kong bound for the United States, INS agents said. A third Chinese stowaway was believed to be en route to Seattle aboard another cargo ship, also to seek asylum, agents said.

The three apparently fled from China to Hong Kong after the massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators at Tiananmen Square in Beijing last June, US officials said.

Shimin Li, 27, who arrived this week in Tacoma, south of Seattle, aboard the ship Brijid Maersk, was a Chinese army captain who was a supporter of the student uprising and took part in the Tiananmen Square demonstrations, attorneys for the men said. (UPI)

EEC denounces Burma: The 12 EEC nations said Friday that Burma's refusal to allow independent observers to monitor its May 27 elections "raise serious questions about the fairness of the elections."

In a statement, they reiterated "their concern at continuing and serious violations of human rights" in Burma, including arbitrary arrests and the relocation of civilians from urban to rural areas.

Burma said Friday it has rejected US Congressman Stephen Solarz's request to observe the May 27 election because of his "notorious record for creating unrest."

Solarz had asked on May 16 to observe the balloting and to speak with politicians currently under detention. Previously, the New York Democrat who chairs the House of Representatives subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs, criticised Burma's military government and expressed doubts that the election will be free and fair. (AP)



French President Mitterrand (right) talks with French explorer Paul-Emile Victor on his island near Bora-Bora, in French Polynesia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pacific tests

Paris ending N-secrecy

PAPEETE, French Polynesia, May 19 (Reuters): President Francois Mitterrand said France would lift the veil of secrecy from its controversial South Pacific nuclear tests and would announce the timing of future explosions.

He said he had been shocked by the air of secrecy surrounding the sealed rooms at the Mururoa atoll test site when he first visited it in 1985.

Declaring that he favoured greater openness about the site, he told a news conference on Thursday: "I thought others than myself could be shown these taps and these pipes."

Mitterrand reiterated French claims that the tests did not harm the environment and said about 300 visiting scientists and technicians had been allowed onto the remote coral atoll, 750 miles from Papeete, in the past year.

Asked whether Paris was ready to give more information about the timing of tests, he said: "If you wish I will communicate what I know. We will publish this without any difficulties."

The underground tests which France has carried out at Mururoa since 1975 have been made public only after detection by seismographers in New Zealand.

rights in Burma, including arbitrary arrests and the relocation of civilians from urban to rural areas.

Burma said Friday it has rejected US Congressman Stephen Solarz's request to observe the May 27 election because of his "notorious record for creating unrest."

Solarz had asked on May 16 to observe the balloting and to speak with politicians currently under detention. Previously, the New York Democrat who chairs the House of Representatives subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs, criticised Burma's military government and expressed doubts that the election will be free and fair. (AP)

Japanese dignitary charged: A Japanese dignitary arrested last month for allegedly stealing merchandise at an airport gift shop—but released after Mayor Tom Bradley contacted police—was charged Thursday with misdemeanor grand theft.

Yukio Umemura, 59, who resigned on May 3 from his post on the Nagoya City assembly in the wake of the scandal stemming from his arrest, faces arraignment on the charge June 5 in west Los Angeles municipal court.

City attorney James Hahn said Umemura was notified of the charge and the arraignment in letters sent to him in Japan and to his Los Angeles attorney, Paul Marks. (UPI)

"Doctor" killer arrested: Cuban authorities said on Friday they had captured the killer of three elderly women in Havana who had dressed as a doctor to gain entry to their homes.

A spokesman for the prosecutor general's office named the man arrested as Jorge Luis Gonzalez Noriega, 23, an escaped convict. He added that Gonzalez had confessed to the crimes, all committed in May.

Gonzalez is accused of killing three women aged 77, 73 and 51, by dressing in a white doctor's coat and persuading them to let him into their homes. He then strangled or asphyxiated them. (Reuters)

Call for national debate: A Cuban state television commentator on Friday criticised leaders and officials who were intransigent in their views and called for more debate and a variety of opinions about ways to solve national problems.

The commentator was one of strongest public manifestations so far of official efforts to widen debate and dialogue within the country's one-party communist system and its political institutions.

Onat George said his commentary, broadcast on National News, had been sparked by a visiting British journalist who had asked why resolutions adopted at meetings of local neighbourhood committees always appeared unanimous. (Reuters)

Rebels to put down their arms: An apparent splinter group of the Shining Path rebel movement has announced that it will temporarily put down its arms and examine the guerrillas' achievements over the past decade.

In leaflets found Thursday, the 10th anniversary of the Shining Path's armed insurgency, the group said it will "evaluate all our brilliant actions of the decade and then return with new impulses and ideas."

It said it would take up arms again "soon." The leaflets were found near where a bomb exploded early Thursday. The bomb's target, the offices of presidential candidate Alberto Fujimori's change 90 party, were slightly damaged. (AP)

Access to documents: The United States and Panama are discussing giving Panamanian officials access to documents captured from the offices of former military ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega, the US embassy said Friday.

"Discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide for controlled access to Noriega regime documents in US hands are continuing," the embassy said in a written statement.

The statement follows an order issued by Panama Wednesday for the US Army to give government auditors immediate and unrestricted access to the documents. (UPI)

Alfonso accuses Menem: Former President Raul Alfonso Friday night accused President Carlos Menem of "treason to democracy" for granting pardons to military rebels who staged three abortive rebellions.

Alfonso, delivering his first speech before a mass political rally since his radical civic union party was defeated in presidential elections on May 14 of last year, castigated the Menem administration before 20,000 followers at a capacity crowd at Luna Park indoor sports stadium. (UPI)



New from Chrysler

Chrysler Corp. officially announced Friday it will produce its pricey Dodge Viper sports car, (above), with the first 200 of the convertible competitors to be available in the 1992 model year.

Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca said the Viper, which debuted in prototype form at the Detroit Auto Show in January 1989, was expected to generate 400 horsepower from its all-new V-10 engine and would cost "under \$50,000." He wouldn't be more exact about the price.

Iacocca said his engineers told him they believed the sleek convertible, with an integrated roll bar and exhaust pipes built into a cutaway side, will be able to go from 0 to 60 mph

(100 kph per hour) in 3.9 seconds. It will reach a top speed of 188 mph (300 kph per hour).

Chrysler officials at a news conference said they eventually expect to produce about 5,000 Vipers a year, to be sold at 300 to 500 US dealerships.

Iacocca said developing the Viper had cost Chrysler "tens and tens of millions—not hundreds of millions," of dollars, adding it can make money for the company at a sales pace of 5,000 cars a year.

Among the team that came up with the Viper concept was Chrysler consultant Carroll Shelby, the father of the popular Shelby Cobras.

Chrysler says the Viper is the first product produced by a computer-driven "conceptual design and rendering system," which is supposed to cut by 25 per cent the time it takes to bring a totally new car to market.

Iacocca said the Viper would be made in US, but he was not more specific.

Chrysler also is working on a new line of sleek, mid-size cars and an additional model for its profitable jeep line, among other vehicles.

Friday's news conference caps a six-city tour promoting the quality of Chrysler cars. Iacocca claims they now equal Japanese models and are the safest on the road.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Alshall stock price indices

Market looks up as trade volume surges

THE Alshall Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 39.43 points with a decrease of 0.07 point, or 0.18 per cent — from last week's average. The Alshall Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 52.77 points with an increase of 0.79 point, or 1.52 per cent — for the same period, according to Alshall weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 18.17 million shares at a daily average of 3.63 million shares with an increase of 19 per cent over previous week's daily average of 3.05 million shares. Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 9,022 million shares at a daily average of 1,804 million shares with an increase of 161 per cent from last week's daily average of 0.690 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD5.32 million at a daily average of KD1.06 million, an increase of 1 per cent over last week's daily average of KD1.05 million. The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.406 million at a daily average of KD0.081 million, an increase of 189 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.028 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 42 per cent of total trading against 72 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 36 per cent, followed by The Gulf Bank at 20 per cent and Al Ahli Bank at 12 per cent. The Investment Sector came second at 30 per cent in which Kuwait Investment Projects Company had the lead at 46 per cent, followed by Coast Investment & Development Company at 30 per cent and National Investments Company at 21 per cent. The Real Estate Sector came third at 91 per cent followed by United Realty Company at 6 per cent, and Kuwait Real Estate Company at 3 per cent.

As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Bahrain Middle East Bank had the lead at 58 per cent, followed by Bahrain International Bank at 22 per cent and Sharjah Cement & Industrial Development Company at 11 per cent.

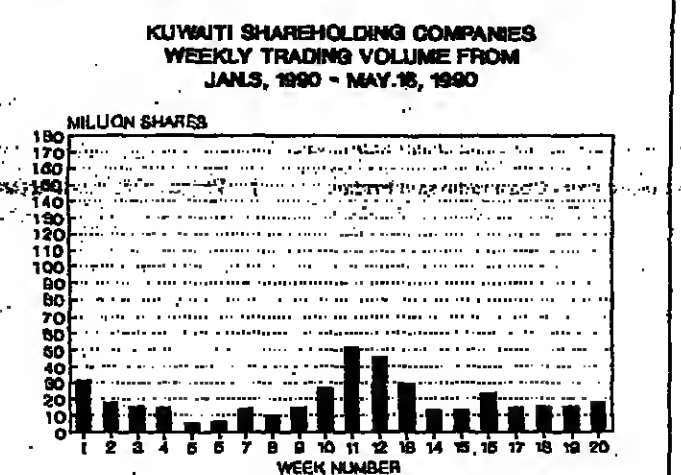
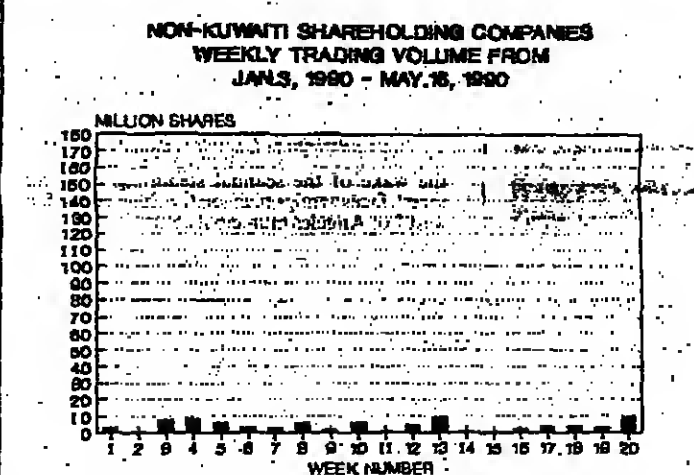
The market gave signs of increase in activity which was reflected on five of the six indices of the two markets. This improvement came after a two weeks period of weakness in performance. What happened is not very complicated and the increase in activity took place in the Kuwaiti shares market and only in the volume of trade as the concentration shifted from the banking sector to the investment and real estate where price indices are much lower than those of the banking sector.

The Commercial Bank lost its leading position in the banking sector after the election of its new Board of Directors.

Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 16/05/90	Wed. 09/05/90	Change points
Banking Sector	129.30	130.52	-1.32
The National Bk	129.30	130.52	-1.32
The Gulf Bk	30.36	30.36	—
The Comm. Bk	23.97	23.97	—
Al Ahli Bk	31.25	30.19	1.06
Bk of K&M.E.	29.62	30.12	-0.50
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	28.89	28.43	0.46
Burgan Bk	26.44	26.53	-0.09
Ki Finance House	81.72	79.93	1.80
Secor Index	48.33	49.42	-0.08
Inv. Sector	—	—	—
Kuwait Inv. Co.	9.18	9.18	—

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index			
	Wed. 16/05/90	Wed. 09/05/90	Change points
First G. Bk.	236.84	236.84	—
Bah. Int'l. Bk.	84.14	82.53	1.38
Bah. M.E. Bk.	84.47	83.53	0.95
A. Gen. Inv. (Shua)	44.70	43.94	0.76
Umm Al Q. Cmt.	15.38	15.38	—
Sharjah Cement	18.76	18.01	0.75
G. Med. Projs.	13.13	13.13	—
Total Index	52.72	51.93	0.79

Kuwaiti shareholding companies			
	Wed. 16/05/90	Wed. 09/05/90	Change points
Banking Sector	129.30	130.52	-1.32
The National Bk	129.30	130.52	-1.32
The Gulf Bk	30.36	30.36	—
The Comm. Bk	23.97	23.97	—
Al Ahli Bk	31.25	30.19	1.06
Bk of K&M.E.	29.62	30.12	-0.50
Kuwait R. Est. Bk	28.89	28.43	0.46
Burgan Bk	26.44	26.53	-0.09
Ki Finance House	81.72	79.93	1.80
Secor Index	48.33	49.42	-0.08
Inv. Sector	—	—	—
Kuwait Inv. Co.	9.18	9.18	—



Experts meet on development bank

Dispute over Franco-British deal

PARIS, May 19, (UPI): Leaders of 40 nations met today in Paris to work out the final details of the \$12 billion European Bank for Reconstruction and Development amid a dispute over the location of the bank and its president.

The programme, proposed last year by French President Francois Mitterrand, is aimed at stimulating private enterprise and economic growth in the newly emerging economies of Eastern and Central Europe.

The Netherlands has been the most vocal critic of an agreement reportedly endorsed by the Group of Seven — France, Britain, West Germany, Italy, Canada, Japan and United States — to select London as a site for the bank and Frenchman Jacques Attali as its president.

Attali is a top aide to Mitterrand and has

handled much of the preparation for the programme.

The Dutch government has been pushing to locate the bank in Amsterdam under the direction of its former finance minister, H. Onno Ruding.

The dispute has been a source of friction within the 12-nation European Economic Community, which will hold 51 per cent of the bank's capital, over the deal in the context of the G-7.

A Dutch government spokesman said this week that the EEC nations outside the G-7 were "severely disappointed to learn that the four largest countries in the community have let these questions be decided by the G-7."

The Dutch position to seek an alternative site is believed to be supported by several other EEC nations, including Spain, Belgium,

Luxembourg, Denmark, Greece and Portugal.

Other proposed sites for the bank within the EEC include Copenhagen, Brussels and Luxembourg.

EEC leaders were to meet separately prior to the larger meeting to try to resolve their differences.

In addition to the 40 nations, the bank's founding shareholders will include two international organisations, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank. A ceremony to launch the bank is scheduled for May 31 in Paris.

A number of other issues have been resolved in recent months, including the divisive question of the Soviet Union's participation and the role of the bank in public works as well as private enterprises.

Moscow calls for better economic deal

MOSCOW, May 19, (Reuters): Russian Prime Minister Alexander Vlasov, tipped to win the presidency of the Soviet Union's largest republic, said on Friday that its citizens should enjoy the fruits of their own economic success.

Vlasov, backed by President Mikhail Gorbachev against reformer Boris Yeltsin, played the patriotic card when he told the Russian parliament he stood for the comprehensive overhaul of the economy.

"We adhere to the principle that the wealth of Russia must belong to Russians," he said.

"What kind of situation is it when goods leaving the Republic are worth 40 billion roubles (\$68 billion) yet we receive only 6.3 billion."

In a speech reflecting moves in the other Soviet republics to secure greater autonomy, he called for a broad economic agreement between the Republic and Moscow and a specific accord on currency transfers.

Radical parliamentarians backing Yeltsin view Vlasov, who has held various Communist Party posts since 1961, as a lacklustre bureaucrat.

Yeltsin, immensely popular among ordinary Russians for his attacks on privilege and demands for faster reform, is given an outside chance of rallying the support of enough deputies to win the parliamentary vote on the presidency.

Senior communists had hoped to hold the election soon after parliament opened on Wednesday. But reformists insisted Vlasov present a report on the economy first and won a series of votes in ill-tempered debates to delay the election until next week.

Dollar expected to gain support from better economic news

THE batch of economic data this week continues to endorse our view that the US economy is slowing decisively. Even though trade figures were up on the month much of the increase is due to seasonal factors with the unadjusted deficit virtually unchanged. The bond market however, moved sideways on the news having made substantive gains in the previous week, equities nevertheless moved ahead whilst the dollar to recoup earlier losses, according to NBK weekly market review.

The dollar ended the week at DMI.65 and yen 152.7.

Although recent dollar nervousness reflects expectation of the need for lower interest rates in the US against the prospects of higher rates elsewhere, a number of factors suggest that the dollar's downward phase for the time being, is now slowly coming to an end. With the adverse interest rate differential largely discounted, the dollar is expected to gain support from relatively better economic news and uncertain events outside of the US.

Inflation over the year is expected to trend lower whilst the trade deficit is anticipated to

progressively narrow. The continuing political instability in the Soviet Union and difficulties raised by Germany and economic unification will make the markets wary. The dollar will consequently benefit on its safe-haven status.

Although the possibilities of Federal Reserve tightening is now diminished, against the prospects of higher rates in continental Europe, any imminent move to relax policy is equally unlikely. However, over the year as a whole we still believe that with increasing evidence of slowdown the Central Bank will concede to mounting pressure to relax monetary policy.

Trading ranges for the coming week are DMI.63-1.67 and yen 150-155.

As detailed several weeks back, it would appear now that the UK prime minister's opposition to sterling's entry to the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) has diminished. In that this represented the last hurdle to membership of the ERM — with the treasury already very much in favour of accession — this is likely to pave the way for early entry.

The markets favourable interpretation of the news consequently benefited the UK currency and equity and gilt markets alike. As we have long maintained ERM entry will allow interest rates to decline sooner and further than would have otherwise been the case.

Sterling ended the week at DM2.79 and £/DM2.77-2.81 and £/\$1.68-1.72.

Despite the markets euphoric interpretation on the prospect of ERM membership, data released over the last week provides little room for optimism. The main concern continues with escalating pay awards which threaten to undermine the government's economic strategy. Retail sales figures have failed to moderate with current average earnings at 9.5 per cent, consumer expenditure remains sufficiently robust. In that inflation has yet to succumb to the tight monetary conditions and given expectations of higher interest rates in Europe, UK interest rates will remain at current levels for sometime to come.

Whilst the prospects of ERM entry will provide a fillip to the currency, before accession takes place sterling still remains vulnerable. Inflation has yet to peak whilst the current account deficit has yet to turn decisively lower. With the political climate far from certain, investor sentiment will remain wary.

Key industries set to recover

A MAJORITY of key Korean industries, such as shipbuilding, electric and electronics and automobiles, are expected to regain strength in the second quarter of this year, a leading Korean economic organisation forecast May 4.

In its quarterly economic outlook report, the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that shipbuilding production in the April-June period of this year is expected to reach around 1.2 million tonnes, nearly two times that of the same period a year ago.

Shipbuilding exported for the quarter will amount to \$350 million, up about 74 per cent from the year ago level, the KOCI report said.

In the first quarter of this year, the report said, the Korean shipbuilding industry, riding a global shipbuilding boom and aided by stabilised labour management relations, obtained a quarterly record high of around 2.4 million tonnes in new orders.

The backlog of shipbuilding orders at the end of March stood at a record high of 7.8 million tonnes, an increase of 31 per cent from the end of 1989, the report said.

The domestic shipbuilding industry is expected to continue to be busy for the next few years because of a global shipbuilding boom which the KOCI forecast will extend to the mid-1990s, the report said.

Korea's shipbuilding industry is expected to overshoot its export goal this year set at US\$1.7 billion, it said.

Inventories dip

Gasoline prices continue to rise

NEW YORK, May 19, (UPI): US gasoline prices rose for the fifth straight day with inventories declining and refineries apparently returning to production at a slower-than-normal rate from annual maintenance "turnarounds."

The gasoline surge was again held down by the weakness of the crude market, a pattern that characterised the market for most of the week.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, June delivery unleaded gasoline gained 0.22 cent on the day and 2.55 cents on the week to 64.43 cents a gallon after trading as high as 65.35 cents a gallon.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for June delivery dropped another 11 cents to \$18.76 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, bringing its four-day loss to 95 cents after rising 76 cents on Monday.

Trading volume was a light 54,981 estimated contracts.

But, there was a heavy selloff of both crude and gasoline in the last 15 minutes of trading.

Refineries are taking longer than anticipated to return from their annual maintenance "turn-

narounds" from heating oil to gasoline production "causing gasoline prices to rise dramatically," said Joe Miller of Shearson Lehman Hutton's international energy desk in New York.

The turnarounds "seem to be taking longer than normal," echoed John Lichtblau, president of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation.

"I don't know what else it could be," Lichtblau said, that would cause US gasoline inventories to be much lower than this time last year.

The oil industry's American Petroleum Institute reported Tuesday that gasoline supplies last week were 9.3 million barrels less than this time last year even though crude stocks were 31 million barrels higher.

The disparity comes as the nation is approaching the Memorial Day holiday, the annual starting gun for the summer driving season and increasing demand for gasoline.

Lichtblau noted that some of the nation's largest refineries were severely damaged in December freeze and it may be taking longer than usual to get them in shape for gasoline production.

Wall Street blue chips decline

NEW YORK, May 19, (Reuters): Wall Street blue chip stocks fell on Friday from a record close in the previous session, but the broader market overcame the downturn in big industrial stocks and marched steadily higher.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 11.80 points at 2,819.91, tracking from a 12.03 point gain on Thursday that pushed the index to a record high of 2,831.71 — the third all-time high this week.

In the broader market, rising stocks managed to overcome losses by a margin of 742.715 on the New York Stock Exchange, while many market averages also posted gains.

Big Board volume was moderate 162.5 million shares,

compared with 164.8 million shares on Thursday. Despite the setback on Friday, the Dow still scored an 18.33-point gain during the week as optimism soared over the course of interest rates and inflation.

The market received steady doses of good news this week, showing the economy was ploughing ahead at a slow growth rate without a worrisome acceleration of inflation.

But weakness in the US government securities market after a big jump last week weighed on Wall Street. While blue chips overcame the bond market doldrums on Thursday, they were unable to muster the buying power to do it again on Friday.

'Calculating inflation is an art'

Confidence on the wane

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 19, (Reuters): Question: How much did prices rise in Brazil last month?

Answer: Between 1.70 per cent and 44.80 per cent, depending on whom you believe.

Calculating inflation in Brazil, a country repeatedly battered by hyperinflation, is an art rather than a science.

President Fernando Collor de Mello's government announced after taking office in March that it would no longer officially recognise any inflation index.

"The government wanted to avoid having to index wages with prices, one of the main causes of inflation in the past," Rio-based economist Edmar Bacha said.

Since then Brazil has had a free market in inflation figures, with more than a dozen choices.

"The one thing there's no shortage of in Brazil is inflation figures," the newspaper Journal do Brasil commented yesterday.

Collor has staked his credibility on choking off inflation, which was nearing an annual 5,000 per cent when he took office.

So it came as no surprise that after first claiming that April inflation was zero, he plumped for a figure at the lower end of the range, 34.29 per cent.

Employers, obliged until Thursday to index wages by the government-approved figure, breathed a huge sigh of relief. Unions were less happy. They pointed out that the respected Brazilian Geography and Statistics Institute had released an April inflation figure of 44.80 per cent.

Although its figure is not strictly comparable — it reflects price rises from mid-month to mid-month — it was still billed as an "April" figure.

A typical mid-range number was the INPC index, used as the official inflation indicator between 1986 and 1987. It showed price rises of 14.67 per cent for April.

For most Brazilians, a more reliable indicator of the way prices are behaving is the worth of Brazil's latest currency, the two-month-old cruzeiro.

When Collor announced on March 16 the drastic anti-inflation package that launched the cruzeiro — Brazil's fourth currency in four years — the black market dollar crashed from 80 to 35 cruzeiros overnight.

Oil markets oversupplied

LONDON, May 18, (Reuters): Mediterranean and Rotterdam spot markets are still awash with sour sulphurous crudes, and it is Iranian oil that is the main culprit, European oil traders said.

"The market is basically massively oversupplied," said one trader. Rotterdam storage facilities were so full that sellers were having severe difficulties moving material, he said.

Another trader said that supply overhang was worse in the Mediterranean where Iranian material faces stiff competition from Urals, the Soviet export blend.

The Med situation is still more difficult than the north," the trader said. A flotilla of Iranian cargoes arriving on the European spot market was widely seen as triggering April's collapse in world oil prices, forcing Opec to convene an emergency meeting in Geneva in early May.

Opec agreed on an output cut of 1.445 million barrels per day. But Iranian heavy prices have shown signs of recovering from recent lows. On a delivered Mediterranean basis, the grade fetches a discount of \$2.60 to 2.70 a barrel to North Sea Brent crude and in Rotterdam is around 10 cents higher.

Iranian light is assessed at a premium of around 90 cents to the heavy grade.

As recently as March, Iranian heavy was assessed around \$2 below dated Brent.

Reasonable buying of Iranian material in the last two weeks has helped to mop up some of the excess — some 10 cargoes have been reported traded — but oversupply persists.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs) May 19, '90	Pr. Cl	Open	Close
ACC	457	452.50	454
Alcon Chem	—	—	—
Alw Nis	—	—	—
Ari Fab	—	—	—
Ashok Ley	89	87	89.50
Asia Paint	241.25	238.75	237.50
Atlas Cop	36	35	36
Auto Corp	66	63	65
Bar Ind	419.30	—	—
Bajaj Auto	425	415	420
Bar Rayon	865	857.50	846.25
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Bom Dye	219.50	218	210
BK Bond	115	114	116
Bur Wel	75	70	75
Cambare	—	—	—
Can Enka	3700	3650	3675
Can Sps	3300	3270	3270
Colgate	215	211.25	212.50
Crest Gr	—	1020	1050
DCM	—	23.50	24.50
Deep Fert	29.50	28.50	29.50
Dunlop	—	60	62.50
El Hotels	58	56	58
Escorts	88.50	87	89
BSE Index	770.36	—	—
Exatray	147.50	145	146.25
Essar Sps	37	36.25	36.85
Food Sps	120	117.50	118.75
Forbes	—	47	49
Gar Poly	38.50	38.50	37
GL India	108	107	106.50
GNFC	37	36.50	36.25
Grasim	129	127	127.50
GE Ship	46	45.75	47
GSFC	187.50	186.25	188.75
Guj Alk	84	82.50	83.50
Guj Heavy	16	15	16
Hind Ciba	1400	1380	1345
Hind Lever	116.50	116	116.50
Hind Coca	160	156.25	158.75
Hind Motor	33.25	33.25	32.50
Hindalco	270	267.50	271.25
Hoechst	2060	2030	2010
Ingersoll	225	217.50	220
ITC	72	72	75
Jud Org	60	58.75	60
Ind Rayon	105.50	104.50	105.50
Indrol	510	507.50	509.50
Siemens	113	112	113
SKF	1380	1370	1375
Spic	60	58.25	58.50
St Mills	81	80	81
Tata Oil	—	—	—
Tata Chem	121	119	120
Tata Pow	510	507.50	495
Telco	1460	136	138.50
Thapp Agro	—	—	—
Tisco	111.25	110.75	111
Vam Org	137.50	135	137.50
Vareli	—	—	—
Vodara	71	68	71
Wimco	18	17.75	18
Zenith	41	41	42
Zuari Agro	63	60	61

WANTED SECRETARY
Preferably European or American with knowledge of

EVENTS

Arab and International Handicraft Bazaar 1990



NADI AL FATAT held the Arab and International Handicrafts Bazaar 1990, last week. Representatives of the Arab and international diplomatic corps participated in the festival. Demonstrations of traditional folk music and dance were included in the daily programme. Proceeds of all sales went to the benefit of the orphaned children of Lebanon. The pictures show (from top clockwise): Nigerian children in their national costumes, outside the Nigerian booth; the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Sabah, inaugurating the bazaar; visitors and on-going talent; the minister admiring some of the works; and the Lebanese dekkah.



WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Gallery Dahyat
Abdullah Al Salem
THE Sixth Arab Children's art show will be held at the Dahyat Gallery, Al Salam, from May 12 to 21. The paintings and drawings of children from several Arab and Gulf countries will be on show. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm, except weekends.

SOCIAL

Approb Essay Competition
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen has again extended the last date of its essay competition for April 15 to May 31, 1990. The date has been extended at the popular demand because many interested students were unable to participate in the competition due to the examinations and later due to the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan.

The essay competition on the topic *My role in building a better Pakistan* is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Pakistan resolution. Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants. The panel of judges includes: Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali.

Essays may be mailed to Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, Kuwait, 22024. For further details, contact: 2425315, Fax: 5323751.

Indian Arts Circle
HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is Konkani play at 8 pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

Kuwait Entertainment City

Filchek inter-commercial Chess Tourney

THE Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filchek) is now accepting entries for this year's Inter-Commercial Chess Tourney. The tournament will be held at the Filchek Chess Club, near Fatima Mosque, from May 12 to 21. The tournament is open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts. Entry forms are now available at the Filchek Chess Club, near Fatima Mosque, and at the new Kabayan Restaurant and the deadline for the submission of entries is on Friday, May 25, 1990. Opening ceremonies will be held on June 8, 1990 at the Messilah Beach Club during the Pre-Independence Day celebration being organised by the Philippine embassy.

For more details, please call Filchek Headquarters at Tel. 240-2405.

Polish Charity Concert

THE Polish Charity Concert will take place on Wednesday, May 16, and Thursday, May 24, 8 pm, at the Mousetrap Theatre (New English School, Jabriya). Polish and Yugoslavian musicians will perform in rich selection of classical music, including Chopin, Schubert, Brahms etc. In addition, a light-and-sound-show — Faces of the Desert with electronic music, composed by Mark Bilinsky and Video-rana Jack Wozniak will be shown. Tickets for KD5 can be bought daily from 4-6 pm at the Mousetrap Theatre box office. For telephone bookings call 2667624/4747879.

Boushahri Gallery

AN exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists will be held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg., Salem Al Mubarak St., from May 7. The month-long exhibition is being held under the patronage of Dr Hassan Ali Ibrahim. Some of the artists who will exhibit their works include Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyah, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jamei. It will be open to the public for a month. Timings: 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 7.30 pm.

Crazy Thieves

IAC presents a full length hilarious Tamil comedy drama "Crazy Thieves" directed by C. K. V. Raman, on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm at their auditorium in Funaites. For passes please contact on 3904817, 5616930, 4894874 and 3903879. Vantage seats can be received for yellow and white passes only on May 23 and 24, 1990 from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm at IAC office in Funaites.

Tamil drama

IAC presents a hilarious Tamil comedy by "Enthusiasts" after their last year's roaring success of *Unmaiye Etti Vela Enna*. Programme is at IAC hall on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm.

For entry passes contact 3904817, 5616930, 4894874 and 3903879.

Santacruz sa Nayan

THE newly-inaugurated Cafe Maharlika, owned and managed by two budding Filipino entrepreneurs — Rene Dizon and Larry Gallardo will hold the traditional "Santacruz sa Nayan" on May 25. This will be a sort of beauty tilt searching for the most beautiful "Reyna Elena".

For contest particulars, anyone who's interested can contact either Rene or Larry at Cafe Maharlika located at Fahd Al Salem Street, Kuwait City, between Hardees and Souk Al Mubtadha.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designer henna work comes alive at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Kalpak celebrates 1st anniversary

Kerala Arts & Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait celebrates its 1st anniversary at Indian embassy auditorium on Friday, May 25, 1990 at 5.00 pm. A variety show will be held following the function to mark the anniversary celebrations.

Asparagus promotion at Kuwait Sheraton

THE Riccardo Restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine presents an asparagus promotion from 20.5.90 till 26.5.90 with entertainment from Franco and Regina.

Summer Affair '90

"Summer Affair '90" which had been postponed, will now be held on Thursday, May 24, 1990, at the Regency Palace Hotel. Highlights will be the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen and Miss Kodak. Passes held by guests are still valid. For fresh reservations please contact Julio 4315425, Hilary 5741380 and Mercedes 4890566.

"Summer Belle '90"

WAKE up pretty damsels, "Summer Belle" awaits you at the SAS Tent. Plan your evening with fun and fiesta right now with the United Goans Centre. Surprises await one and all. It's happening on August 2, 1990. Rock and roll to the scintillating music of the top bands in Kuwait. Look out for further details.

Waltzes, Polkas and the works of Strauss

KUWAIT Cine Club presents a musical evening featuring the works of Johann Strauss. The programme will include famous waltzes such as "The Blue Danube", the Emperor's Waltz with Vienna Opera Ballet besides "Voices of Spring Waltz" by soprano Cathleen Baile.

In addition to some famous polkas like "Pizzicato Polka", "Thunder and Lightning Polka".

The programme will end with the "Radetzky March" of the Vienna Philharmonic orchestra conducted by Herbert von Karajan. Soprano Cathleen Baile.

The programme will be presented by Abdel Rahman Nassar.

Pakistan Arts Circle
THE executive committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle has the pleasure to announce its forthcoming programme, to be held on June 7, 1990, at 8.00 pm at the Sharq hall.

For further information, please contact Hamid Mahmood Tel. 4716258, Salman Shah 4769520 and M. K. Kidwai 4312016.

Kuwait Welsh Society

THE annual general meeting and social evening will be held at 8 pm on May 23, 1990. For details of venue etc., please ring 3912384, 3713467 or 5740256. Newcomers welcome.

Kuwait Players

KUWAIT Players presents A Room Full of Foreigners from May 28 to May 31 at the U.A.S. — Salwa — at 8.00 pm. For reservations phone 5321294 or 5615357.

SPORTS

Windsurfing

ALL are welcome to the Messilah Beach Hotel open windsurfing event on Friday, May 25, 1990. Prizes for experienced, novice and lady windsurfers. Entry fee is KD3. Maximum sail size 1D 7.5 square metres. For further information please call 5624111 ext. 739.

HOTELS

Meridian Hotel

INDONESIAN CORNER: Enjoy Indonesian cuisine every Wednesday night at La Brasserie. In addition to our daily lavish buffet our chef will prepare Indonesian specialties in front of you. JAZZ NIGHT: Enjoy New Orleans atmosphere with jazz and seafood specialties every Thursday in La Brasserie restaurant. Enjoy a typical Oriental buffet lunch with Oriental organist every Friday in La Brasserie restaurant. Friday: Family day

in La Brasserie

VERSAILLES: Take advantage of our great value business lunch including starter, main course, dessert and coffee.

For dinner enjoy relaxing atmosphere provided by our resident artiste and finest cuisine with a la carte menu featuring chef specialties as fish or beef "fondue", grilled beef on "brasserie", ham-mour and salmon on "shingle" and many others.

Kuwait Sheraton

RICCARDO Restaurant: The Riccardo restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine will be open for lunch and live entertainment with "Franco and Regina" every night.

BISTRETTO: Every Sunday and Wednesday night is pasta night at the Bistretto. Enjoy over 100 delightful combinations of pastas in a cheerful "Terraza" atmosphere or choose a table around the pool under the moonlight while our musicians will serenade you with romantic Italian favourites. For reservations, pls. call up 5657000 ext. 301.

PEACOCK ROOM: Enjoy delectable Chinese specialties in the classy ambience of the Peacock Room. Our Chinese chef recommends special dishes aside from our well-loved Peacock menus. Open for lunch and dinner daily, for reservations pls. call 5657000 ext. 403 or 532.

AL BOOM: Experience an evening in a traditional Kuwaiti dhow. Welcome on board Al Boom and dine on fine charcoal grilled foods, plus our extensive mezzeh buffet. Open for dinner daily, lunch every Thursday and Fridays. Book your table now, pls. call up 5657000 ext. 403 or 540.

AL GHAZER: Experience the old Kuwaiti seafaring traditions, come aboard Al Ghazer. Available for half day or full day trip. For details, pls. call up 5657000 ext. 416.

CLOCK: Fast food items available — juicy burgers, french fries, samusek, shawarma, soft drinks and lots more. Come to the Clock and we will serve you on the dot.

EEDAM: The finest gourmet shop in town. Imported meats, fresh vegetables, freshly baked home-made bread and other items available. Come and try also our Eedam special.

Messilah Beach Hotel

Al Mubarakiah restaurant: The only 24-hour restaurant/coffee shop in Kuwait. Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner or any time for refreshments and snacks. Wednesdays — special seafood promotions: Starting 7 pm with a selection of your favourite fish dishes prepared to your liking in the relaxed atmosphere decorated with

that maritime touch and live background music.

Fridays — special buffet. A go go with a large variety of Middle Eastern and Continental dishes.

BBQ: Every Thursday night in Al Berdowneh the Beach Garden Restaurant offering Lebanese mezzas, grills, fresh salads.

Al Jawharah: Open every Thursday for a special evening of food, music and entertainment by the resident "Rain-bow" band.

Plaza Hotel

INTERNATIONAL CUISINE: At Al Dallah Coffee Shop for those who enjoy and appreciate excellent food which is prepared by a team of expert cooks. The open buffet they offer is full of delicious and exquisite dishes. It is truly different with unbeatable price. Name the dish you fancy you find in our International buffet.

LOLOUWAH CORNER: The Parisian Cafe in the heart of Al Muthana shopping centre where you can enjoy live entertainment with iced tea, our special summer drinks and Arabic ice-cream. Also you can relax in a unique atmosphere where you are offered our special Lebanese sandwiches, juices, light meals and exquisite Kuwaiti ruga.

MARCOPOLO: The Italian Restaurant in the heart of the city. Italian specialties with live music, different ambience where you find yourself in Italy surrounded by classy atmosphere and our chefs recommend special dishes. Enjoy the pastas they offer.

CINEMA

Al Andulus
Arabic film
Al Salmiyah
Arabic film
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Meraa Suhaag
Fahadhel Open
Desk Ke Dushman
Fahadhel
Mad Mission V
Al Jahra
Shankar Dada
Granada
Nigahen
Sulabikhat
Snake In The Eagle's Shadow
Jeeb
Carnival
Ahmadi Drive-In
Scrooged

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.22 am
Zuhr	11.44
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.36
Isha	8.04

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

9.30 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.30 Cultural film
12.00 Candid Camera
12.30 News in brief and closedown

Evening

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.30 Cartoon serial
5.00 Cartoons
5.30 Public announcements
6.00 Daily Arabic serial
7.00 Songs
7.15 Public service magazine
7.50 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabat
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Daily Arabic serial
10.30 Arabic Act: Abbaab Wa Anyah
12.00 News in brief
12.05 World Today via Satellite and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 The Berastain Bears

A cartoon series for children

6.30 The Beachcombers. "Blue-Plate Special". Relic winds up managing Molly's restaurant. Nick and Jesse don't realise that Relic has ulterior motives.

7.00

In the Shadow of Fujisan. A look at a bird called the bird of happiness where it helps its female in raising their young.

8.00

News in English
8.30 Matlock. "Counting Boy". A popular singer is accused of killing his sister-in-law after a quarrel with his wife witnessed by many people.

9.30

Body Matters. "Radiation: Facts and Fiction". There are two types of radiation. One causes diseases and the other used as a therapy... A look at Alpha, Beta and Gamma rays.

10.00

The Nut House. "When Charles met Sally". Marlin in-charge of public relations in the hotel notices that Sally is after Charles and plans to stop her.

10.30

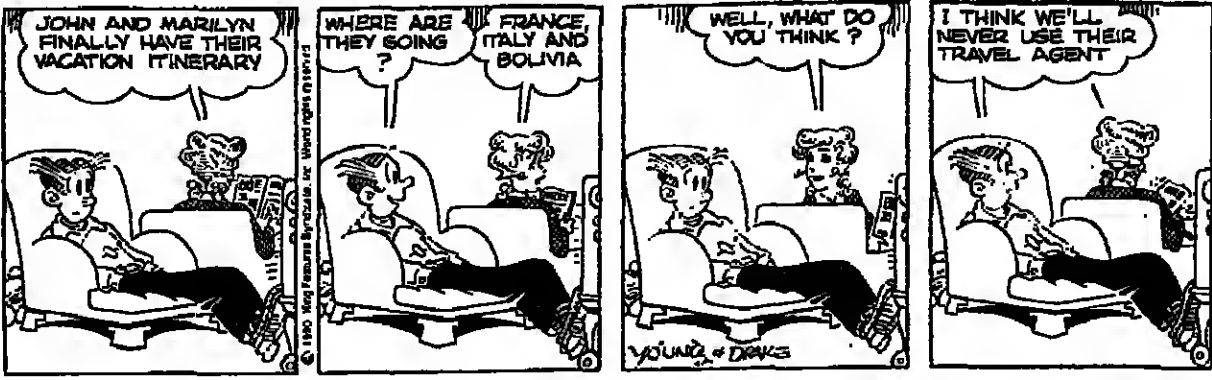
Bestseller. "Tanamara, Lion of Singapore" Pt-3
12.00 News in brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite



Punjabi Adabi Sangat

The monthly meeting of Punjabi Adabi Sangat was held last week at the residence of Kishori Lal Sansoi under the presidency of Musarat Jabin Zeha. Bhagmant Singh Dogra and Jagdish Singh Arora presented short story and poem respectively for the critical appreciation. A mini-mushaira was held at the end of the meeting in which Musarat Jabin Zeha, Dr Palwinder Singh Jathol, Najam Akashi, Rashid Memati, Khawaja Arshad Ahmed, Jagdish Singh Arora, Kishori Lal Sansoi and Jashbir Singh Dhimani recited their poems. Picture shows Musarat Jabin Zeha Jagdish Singh Arora and Bhagmant Singh Dogra.

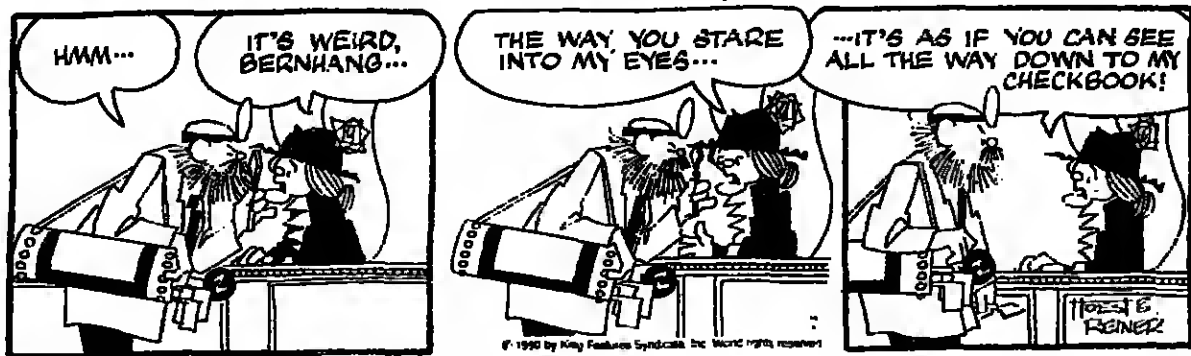
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



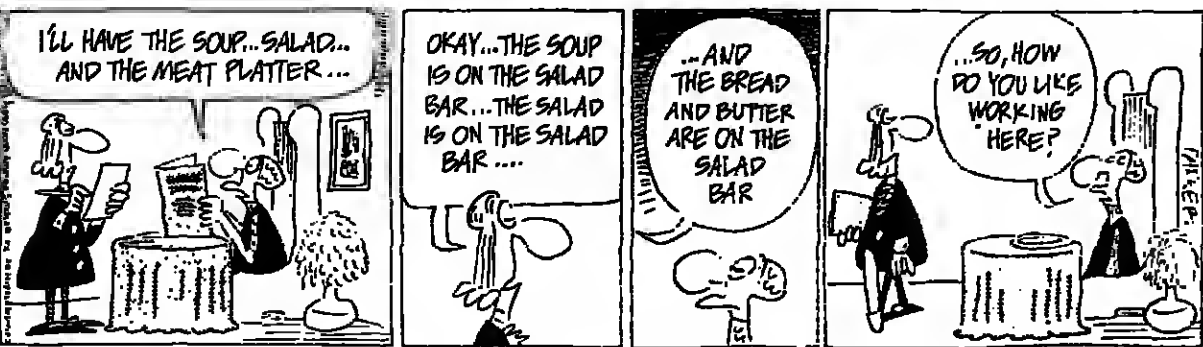
AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLEBAILEY — By Mort Walker



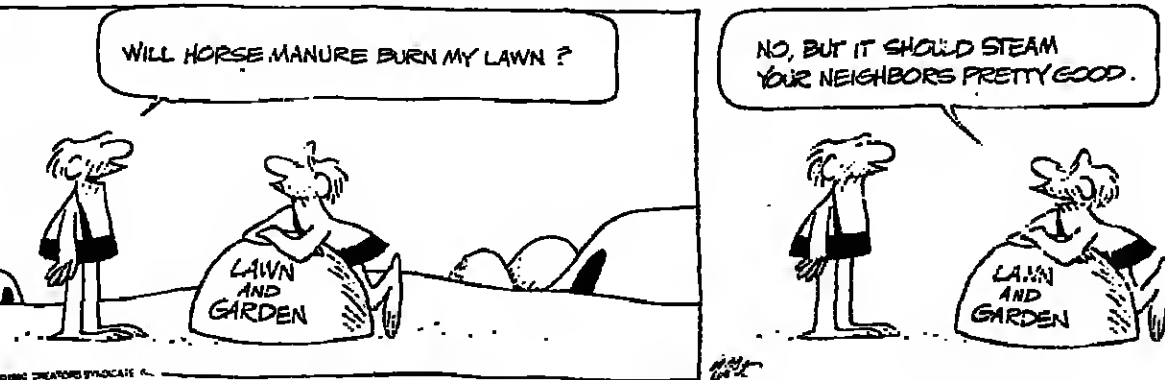
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Bram Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



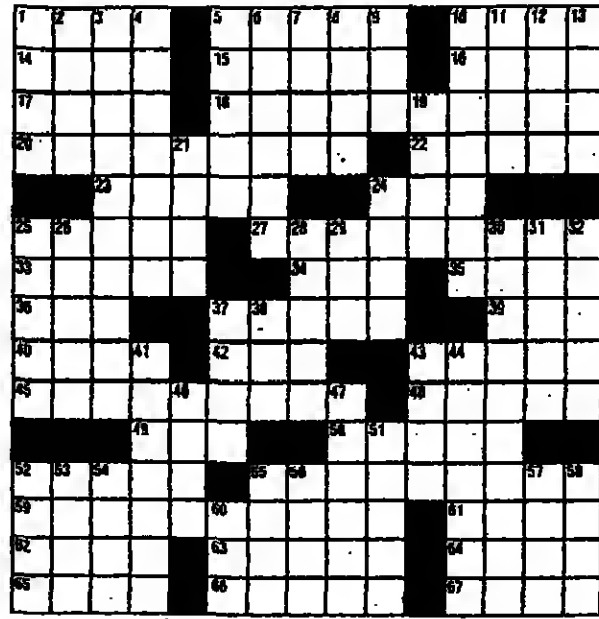
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Move to action
 - 10 Fiesta
 - 14 Bathe
 - 15 Masonry support
 - 16 Inter —
 - 17 Mine products
 - 18 Certain US citizens
 - 20 Become lively
 - 22 Kirstia of "Cheers"
 - 23 Like soma chairs
 - 24 Between sigma and upsilon
 - 25 On one's own
 - 27 Humiliate
 - 33 Famous mini-series
 - 34 Sniggle's catch
 - 35 Alike in Paris
 - 36 Ship of the Flood
 - 37 Menu
 - 39 Day — colors
 - 40 "...where is fancy —"
 - 42 Cuckoo
 - 43 Editor's mark
 - 45 Silts
 - 48 Start of the Hebrew alphabet
 - 49 Junior
 - 50 Puts in the mail
 - 52 West Indies island resort
 - 55 Predisposition to a condition
 - 59 Bogart-Bergman film
 - 61 Costa —
 - 62 Always
 - 63 Viper
- DOWN**
- 1 Raindrop sound
 - 2 Steak order
 - 3 Too well done
 - 4 Soprano part
 - 5 Priest's mantle
 - 6 Reconstructed
 - 7 Assist
 - 8 Weed
 - 9 1920's, a.g.
 - 10 Malfunction
 - 11 Israeli airline
 - 12 Prong
 - 13 No problem
 - 19 River into the Mosel
 - 21 Waller contains
 - 24 "Thereby hangs a..."
 - 25 Saudis
 - 26 Peter of
 - 29 Across
 - 28 Earn
 - 29 Wager
 - 30 Bellicose
 - 31 Orchid tubers
 - 32 Indolence
 - 37 City in Normandy
 - 38 Massachusetts cape
 - 41 Prevents from practicing law
 - 43 Currency
 - 44 Changed
 - 46 Biblical kingdom
 - 47 Placed at intervals
 - 51 Eased seal
 - 52 High cards
 - 53 Starist Shankar
 - 54 Employer
 - 55 Part of a column's pedestal
 - 58 European lead-in
 - 57 Chills
 - 58 Submerged
 - 60 On the —

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

OMAR CAFE SCALLOP
VIVE OLEA COPIED
AREA MARS TRENE
LORD BENNY LONNOON
ART ONE
SHEBA CAY LEAF
CURLS DUMAS MGR
ANNE ISABELLE ABRE
LAS LINEN OPENS
ANTS NEB OPRAH
TAG SPA
GEORGE LOUIS LEAR
ELVIER ORLE LEMA
OBSE TANG EROS
MAISE ALAE OYKIE

COREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
RIGHT ON THE SPOT

East-West vulnerable. North immediate two-spade raise could have complicated life for North-South. East's double of five clubs was greedy, since that was one contract he wanted to defend, but South would have run anyway. West led a low spade, ducked by declarer, who won the continuation. Since there was a certain club loser, declarer had to bring in the heart suit without loss to land the contract. Trying to ruff out the queen-jack of hearts would not succeed, since any ruffs with dummy's honors would almost surely set up at least one trump trick for the defenders. The only hope was to find East with both missing heart honors, so at trick three, declarer ran the nine of hearts. When that held, it was a simple matter to draw two rounds of trumps and, when East obliged by holding no more than three hearts, the contract was in the bag. What card enabled the contract to roll home? Certainly, the nine of hearts in dummy was important, but the crucial heart was declarer's eight-spot. Switch the eight and seven of hearts and East can defeat the contract by covering the nine of hearts. At the end, declarer's seven will be topped by West's eight for the setting trick.

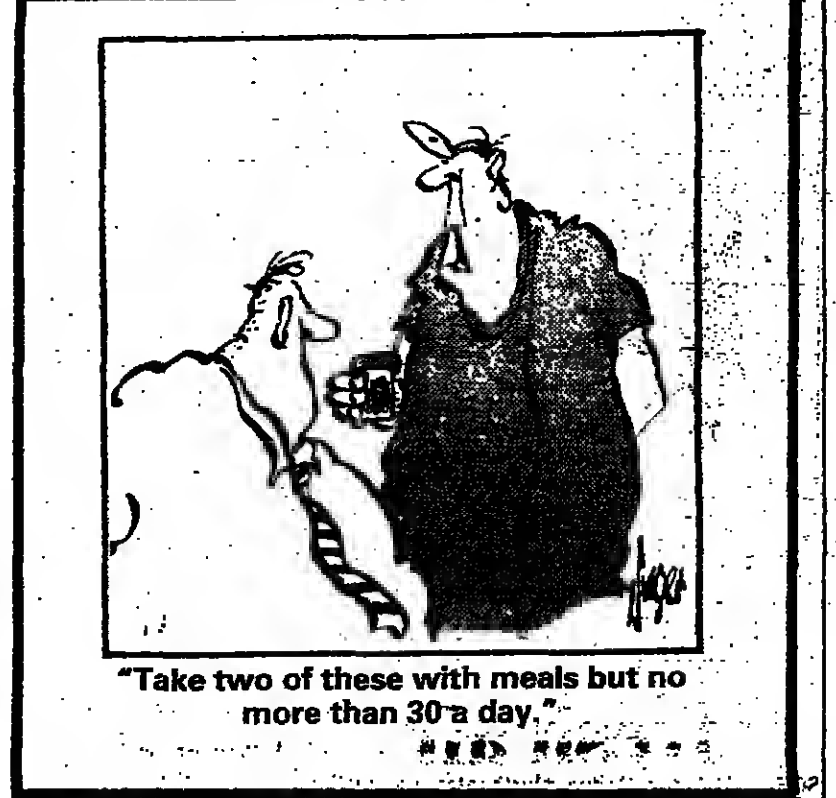
The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	1 ♠	3 ♠	3 ♠
2 ♠	Pass	5 ♠	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

The importance of spot cards was vividly demonstrated on this deal from a recent pair event held at the American Contract Bridge League's Spring Championships, in Fort Worth, Texas. Can you find the key card?

We are not enchanted with West's pass over the takeout double. An



YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 19

There will be some tensions and stress and you should try not to make them worse. Do not try to get your own back, turn the other cheek instead. Seek not to say anything you might come to regret. Be cautious.

Cancer
June 21 - July 20

You will feel more sure of yourself but are you sure you have not missed any important details. A little while spent tidying up will save a lot of time later looking for things. Show your partner how much you love him. Be hopeful.

Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

You should persevere with what you are doing. Success is just beyond the horizon. Read a good book, but do not allow it to eat into your working time, however "unavoidable" it is. Avoid eating too many sweet or spicy things. Be tactful.

Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19

You will be able to make more rapid progress than you had at first thought possible. However, there is still a lot to do and you should not waste time. A project that is dear to your heart will also make good progress. Be versatile.

Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You should not allow yourself to be too fascinated by something that is new. Are you sure that the old way of doing things is not just as good. Do try to improve on existing standards. Be tactful.

Leo
July 21 - Aug. 22

If you rely entirely on luck to get you out of trouble you will be in trouble even if you happen to be lucky. You should concentrate on essentials but you should not ignore details altogether. A tendency to give up too soon will have to be controlled. Be more tolerant.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You will have to work hard in order to meet your commitments but you should do so. And a promise you have made should be kept unless you are released from it. Do not place too much reliance on your memory, make notes. Be considerate.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Nothing is quite what it seems so do try to look a little more beneath the surface. You will tend to indulge in daydreams but you should not confuse them with what really is. Work hard but do not neglect your personal affairs either. Be cordial.

Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You will be able to have an interesting and rewarding day. Do not allow a skill you are not currently using to go altogether rusty. Do not expect others to do exactly what you would like them to do. Be trustworthy.

Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

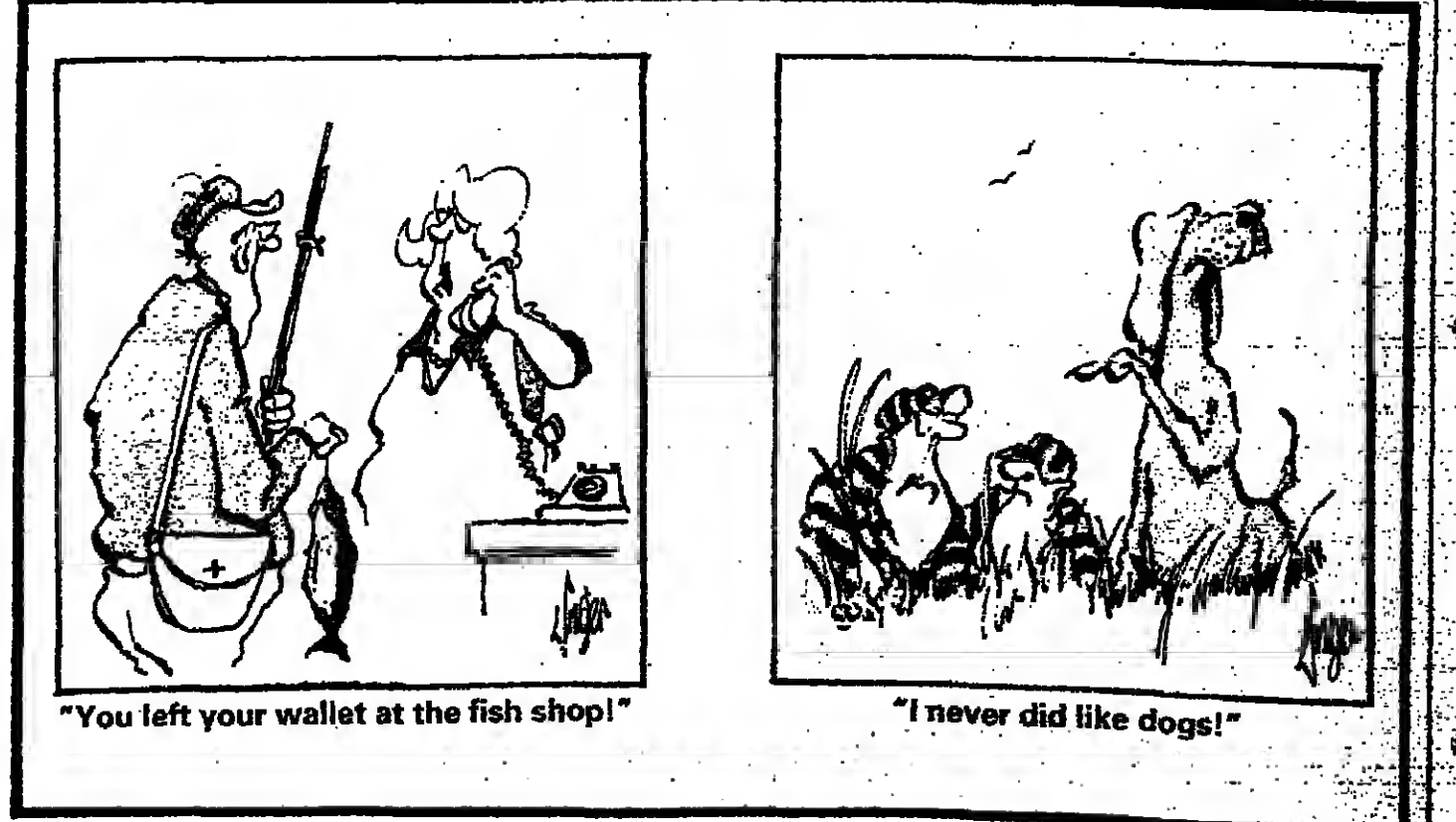
Something that you have been doing wrong can now be put right. And you will be surprised what a simple little thing it is that needed altering. You will have something to be pleased about but do not be smug. Be reliable.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Nothing is quite as you would like it to be but you will be able to adapt yourself to the circumstances. Your lucky numbers are 15 and 36. Something you have been fearing might not now happen. Do not allow your emotions to run away with you. Be generous.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

Payment of a bill should not be delayed but do check that it is correct. Do not allow others to dictate to you but do not try to do it to them either. Something you have learnt will now come in really useful. Be more frugal.



Quiz

Are you an incurable romantic?

By Judy Byrne

ROMANCE, which looked dead and buried in the eighties, is making a big comeback in the nineties.

Perhaps it is the result of the risks of love and leave 'em in the Aids age. Perhaps it is a reaction against the 'gimme, gimme' mentality of the decade just over. Or a bit of both.

But according to a recent survey the romantic approach to life is on the way in again. Are you ready for it? Can you be a fool for love?

This quiz will help you find out — and prepare.

1. When is your loved one's birthday, do you give them:

a. something foolish but sweet

b. something useful

c. something you dash out and buy at the last minute

d. whatever they say they want

e. probably just a kiss and an apology. You tend to forget to get anything.

2. Do you think romantic dinners for two?

a. went out with the non-portable telephone

b. are timeless

c. are a bore

d. are the best?

3. If you go to see a love story film, do you want it to:

a. have a happy ending

b. have a sad ending

c. just get on with it and have any ending as long as it is soon?

d. do you think romantic novels are:

a. compulsive

b. relaxing

c. rubbish

d. escapist

e. dangerous nonsense?

5. Do you tell the one you love that you love them:

a. at least once a day

b. at least once a week

c. at least once a month

d. on special occasions like anniversaries

e. rarely or never?

6. Do you think hugging is:

a. enjoyable

b. therapeutic

c. time-wasting?

7. You loved one confesses a yearning to receive a love poem. Do you:

a. write one

Even in an age of cynicism and social diseases, some people still believe in old fashioned love and togetherness. If you want to find out if you're one of them, do our quiz.

b. crib one

c. change the subject

d. laugh?

8. Do you remember the circumstances under which you and your loved one met:

a. with tenderness

b. with no special affection

c. with difficulty

9. A colleague keeps a photograph of his wife and children on his desk. Do you think it is:

a. lovely

b. a bit soppy for a grown man

c. a cynical exercise in image building and

d. probably a cover-up because he's having an affair?

10. Do you think separate holidays are:

a. sensible if you have different interests

b. the beginning of the end

c. the chance for a new beginning. Being apart makes you appreciate being together?

11. Does the music you heard together the night you met:

a. still make you feel sentimental

b. leave you cold now

c. bore you

d. escape you?

12. Do you write love letters:

a. easily

b. with difficulty

c. never?

13. You last surprised the one you love with an anniversary present:

a. in the last month

b. in the last six months

c. in the last year

d. more than a year ago

e. never?

14. Would you rather spend a free evening:

a. going out for a good meal

b. watching a film on television

c. watching sport on television

d. reading a book

e. sharing wine, music and chat with the one you love?

15. Do you keep souvenirs for relationship and people:

a. by the drawerful

b. briefly, but they soon get on your nerves

c. rarely or never?

How to score

	a	b	c	d	e
1.	20	15	10	5	0
2.	5	10	0	15	-
3.	20	10	0	-	-
4.	20	15	5	10	0
5.	20	15	10	5	0
6.	20	10	0	-	-
7.	15	10	5	0	-
8.	20	10	0	-	-
9.	20	10	5	0	-
10.	10	0	20	-	-
11.	15	5	5	0	-
12.	20	10	0	-	-
13.	20	15	10	5	0
14.	15	10	5	0	20
15.	20	10	0	-	-

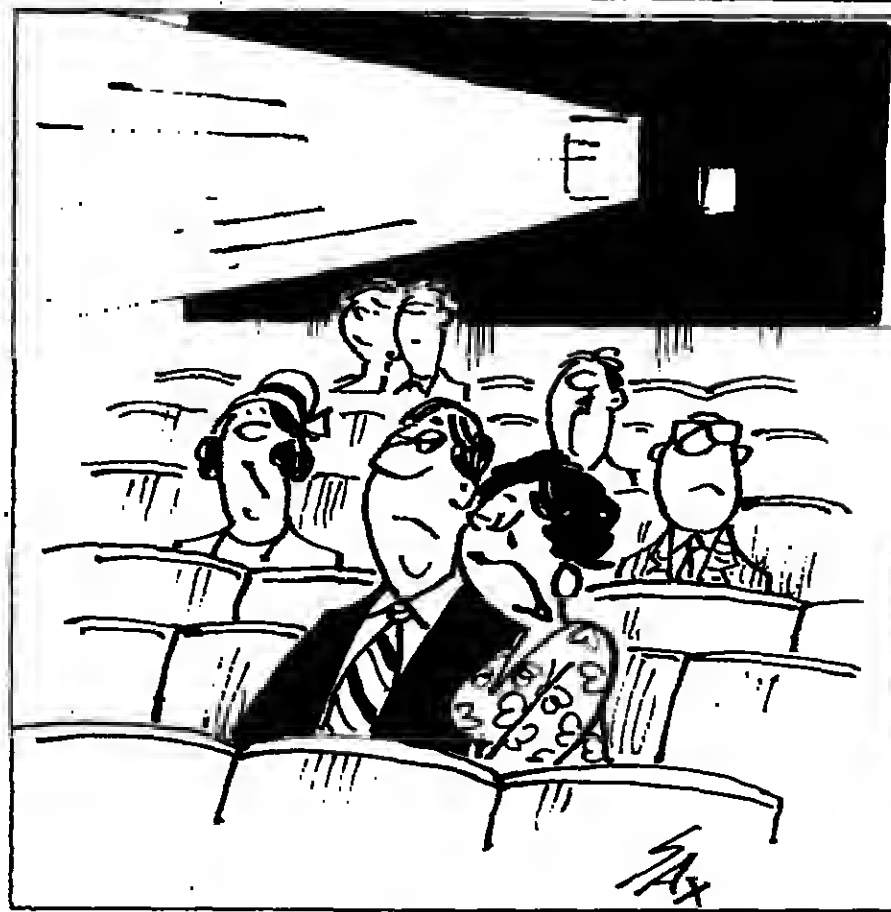
0-95: Well if romance is on the way back, it certainly hasn't reached you yet. What you need to do is stop feeling there is something weak or feeble about having sentimental feelings and go with your soft side now and then. You will find it does a lot for relationships. You might even find it does something for you, too.

100-190: You are romantic sometimes, down to earth at others. You can be demonstrative, though you are not all the time. Relationships are important to you. And you let people close to you know they matter to you.

You are doing fine.

190-285: You are so romantic you can be a fool for love. A fine romance carried to extremes can seem terribly phoney, or just become a bore. Season your romantic nature with a dash of commonsense for a more enduring recipe for happy living.

Romance might be on the way back, but only in moderation.



Rotterdam thriving

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands. (Reuters): Fifty years after it was flattened by a German bombing raid, Rotterdam has become a showcase of modern architecture and a powerhouse of the Dutch economy — due largely to close trade ties with West Germany.

The lasting impact of the bombardment on May 14, 1940, is clearly in the city's skyline which defies the picture postcard image of narrow canals, humpback bridges and gabled buildings fostered elsewhere in the Netherlands.

Rotterdam's hallmark is uncompromisingly modern office blocks and wide, windy streets. It is a cityscape which many see as soulless and over the last 10 years planners have been working to try to soften its image.

The shock of that May lunchtime 50 years ago is still in the minds of the city's older population.

"Since May 10 we knew it was war but nobody expected a thing like that," said Adin Overwater, who was 16 at the time.

"The south part of the city was taken by the Germans and the north part with the city centre was defended by the marines. We expected the fighting would go on — but then we heard the bombs drop," he said.

Blanket bombing of civilian targets was a new concept in warfare and the city was ill-prepared with air-raid shelters.

"I remember driving across the burning city. There was a lot of smoke and huge damage. Everybody was hurrying to leave their home, taking what they could with them," Overwater said.

The fires burned for four days. The entire city centre was destroyed, about 1,000 people died and 80,000 were left homeless. The old, narrow, bustling streets were gone forever.

The residents of Coventry in the English Midlands and the German city of Dresden, also devastated in World War Two bombing raids, decided to try to recreate at least some of what went before. But Rotterdam opted to start again from scratch.

It was not an easy decision, and the arguments over whether the right course was taken still go on.

"The initial reaction of people was to have the old city back," recalled professor Samuel van Embden, number two in the city's planning department after the war.

"The very first plans, drawn up even while the city was smouldering, called for this."

"But it wasn't possible to bring the old feeling of the town back — there wasn't much money and you couldn't have recreated the mix of old building styles that went before. The result would have been uniform and dull," he said.

Instead, the so-called Basic Plan 1946 laid out the city on modern lines, banishing virtually all residential areas from the centre. Rubble was used to fill in canals and a number of old buildings which might have been saved were pulled down.

The aim was to open up the town, connecting it with the river and the port. Van Embden said.

To the year that followed, the port of Rotterdam grew to become the world's largest, fuelled by traffic to and from post-war Germany. The port handles more German imports and exports than any harbour in West Germany.

In total, nearly 300 million tonnes of cargo from all over the world cross its quays which sprawl for 40 (25 miles) in the city itself.

Banks and insurance companies have been drawn to Europe's transport hub and new skyscrapers are shooting up.

The profile of the city's working population is changing, as a result, with office workers beginning to dominate as fewer dockworkers are needed in the increasingly automated port.

Rotterdam still prides itself as being a working city, in contrast to "irivolous" Amsterdam, but the last ten years have seen a growing demand for more leisure life in the city centre.

It is slowly starting to happen. New apartment blocks, catering for the city's young professional classes, are springing up and there is more entertainment on offer. A new city theatre opened last year.

But, for some, the damage of 50 years ago is irreversible.

"It lost its character when the Germans bombed it. I don't appreciate the way it has been rebuilt — it's too modern for me," said Overwater.

Ecoglasnost's breath of fresh air

FIA, Bulgaria: Reduced birth rates and an infant mortality rate of 45 per 1000 is what the inhabitants of the picturesque mountain valley town of Sredgorie in Bulgaria pay for the presence of the Georgi Damjanov copper and sulphuric acid unit.

The legacy of the last 45 years is formidable. Stories litter the Bulgarian landscape, not only haunting the meagre ore deposits, but also polluting the air and the rivers.

The resulting ecological problems, information out which was fiercely suppressed by Todor Zhivkov's regime, were pushed to the fore by an ecology conference held in Sofia in October last year. This made a deep impact on Bulgarians, and is seen as a major force behind the dramatic events in the country this year.

The government's first confrontation with the public occurred in March 1988, when people from the Danube town of Rousse took to the streets, protesting against chlorine gases belching out from chemical factories across the river in Romania. That year also saw the founding of the first Bulgarian public committee for ecological defence from which the nation wide public movement "Ecoglasnost" was born.

Ecoglasnost maintains that collective management of the economy hides individual neglect which has flourished in state-owned industry. Hence pluralism to ownership is essential so that the state can sanction individual owners and managers rather than itself.

The movement has revealed real and harrowing facts about the state of the country's ecology, facts which had until then been suppressed by the State Secrets Act.

The zinc and lead plant near the town of Plovdiv in the Southern Thracian Plain, for example, has been polluting the Maritza river for years, poisoning crops and killing livestock. Early this year, the national television network broadcast a report about thousands of children whose blood samples showed lead content up to twice the level accepted as normal by the World Health Organization.

The death rate in the region has increased 1.5 times during the last two decades, local doctors report. The rural population in some parts of this formerly fertile 300 square kilometre (116 square miles) area has been forced to leave the now barren soil and flee to towns.

Another equally important problem is the wide use of chemicals in agriculture making Bulgaria one of the first three countries to saturate its soil with nitrates.

Crops have not been the only victims of this reckless use of pesticides — forests have also suffered. Acid rain has devastated about 75,000 acres of woodland. And large numbers of animals and birds have died.

Ironically, the very power plants essential for the country — nuclear, water and thermal have also proved disastrous to its ecology. Mass protests in February compelled the government to halt further construction of a five reactor nuclear power plant at the Danube town of Belene — an earthquake-prone region. In any case, the Soviet Union has stopped buying the nuclear waste, which presents a problem for disposal.

Air pollution is another problem. Lead from petrol is a severe pollutant, made worse by the lack of exhaust filters on Soviet-made cars.

Experiments have produced horrifying results, showing that a hamster dies after about four hours at one of the heavy traffic crossroads in the capital, Sofia. This in a country where 67 per cent of the population lives in towns.

With this sort of information only now becoming widely known, ecology is likely to be one of the main issues in the forthcoming elections. All parties and movements know that, without a clear commitment to ecology, they stand little chance of winning.

By Steve Whitworth

ST. LOUIS (UPI): Louis "Shimmy" Boyet Jr. of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, has a few more caps than the average person — more than 1,500 in fact, including caps given to him by President Bush and Sam Walton, but he still cannot pick a favourite.

"I can't tell you what they mean to me because they were given to me by my relatives and my friends," Boyet said in recent telephone interview. "One of them is just as important as the other one."

"They're all favourites. I couldn't put one against the other one."

All of the caps in his collection are different and all were given to him, he said. He keeps an alphabetical list of all 411 people who have given him caps.

"I haven't bought one of them," he said. "I have caps that were given to me from 18 foreign countries. I've even got one from Red China, and that's not easy to get hold of."

Boyet got his cap from Walton, Chairman of Wal-Mart stores, when the businessman was in Poplar Bluff recently to attend the grand opening of

Collector caps 'em all

a Wal-Mart supercentre. Poplar Bluff is in south-eastern Missouri, about 125 miles (200 km) south of St. Louis.

The cap, emblazoned with the logo of "Wal-Mart Of Roy Dog Food," was one of a limited edition series, Boyet said. He said the cap presented to him by Walton, which was No. 140 out of 500 in the limited edition, brought his total number of caps to 1,521.

"I talked to him a few minutes and had my picture made with him," said Boyet, 71, who works as a real estate salesman in Poplar Bluff.

Although he did not get to meet Bush personally, Boyet said he was thrilled to receive a cap in the mail from the President. The cap is red, white and blue with a large "T" for Bush's home state of Texas.

"There was an article in the newspaper that said (Bush) had given a cap to a man in Florida," Boyet said. "I cut out the article and mailed it to him, then

talked to a secretary to his secretary."

Because of his interest, Boyet said he now notices any cap worn by someone he meets. He said he would like to correspond with other cap collectors.

Boyet said he didn't know he was going to become a collector when he started saving caps in 1981.

"My sister in Alabama sent me a few caps, then my son gave me a few," he said. "The first thing I knew, people started sending them to me."

"I took them out of the closet and put them on the wall. Once I got no more wall, I grew."

Although most of his collection consists of basketball-style caps with bills, he also has a few unusual ones, including the familiar "bobby" hat of a London policeman.

"I wear some, and I've got them all over the walls," he said. "My wife says I'm getting too many."



As a new series of the top cop show hits the world's screens, actor Telly Savalas (above) tells his darkest secret, as a kid on New York's mean streets, he stole everything from a ring in Woolworth's to a huge sled from Macey's department store. He admits: "I was on the wrong side of the law 99 per cent of the time."

The day they caught Kojak shoplifting

By Frank Durham in Los Angeles

LOLLIPOP savouring Kojak — the world's most famous TV cop — is keeping a secret close to his barrel chest while a new series hits the world's screens. As he is feted by police in every country he visits, actor Telly Savalas is careful never to tell them of his "criminal past."

For tearaway young Aristotle Savalas was only too well known to the cops who patrolled the mean New York streets where he grew up.

Telly, his celebrated bald spot shining, earnestly confided "As a lad I was on the wrong side of the law 99 per cent of the time. I would for example, go to F.W. Woolworth's store and steal a ring or something worth 12 cents."

"Or perhaps I would go to Maceys, the big department place, at Christmas-time. Once I picked up a sled there that was bigger than me. A policeman stopped me and asked 'where are you going?' 'What are you doing' with that sled?"

"I said Santa Claus gave it to me? after all you'll try anything when you're a lad, but the cop took the sled off me anyway."

Telly now aged a respectable 65 years, went on "Then I grew up and realised there was no percentage in this sort of behaviour. I realised that education was really the key to life... and I have my Pop and Mom to thank for finding that out."

"I grasped that school was the way forward unless of course I wanted to wash windows or keep stealing at Maceys for the rest of my life."

"Because of the guidance of my parents — Christina and Nicholas I didn't wind up in Sing Sing jail. But that is sure where some of my street contemporaries ended up, somewhere along the line."

"The Savalas' to New York were lucky. The other kids had parents who failed them, the guidance wasn't there. But I had a mother who was an artist and a father who loved us. They always showed us kids the way."

Telly has made 5 self contained TV movies for the new series, showing an ageing and more thoughtful Police Inspector Theo Kojak. He said "Age has brought a kind of mellowness to Kojak. He's less physical and more cerebral."

Telly's sharp though kindly character is based on the neighbourhood policeman of his childhood. He recalled "Kojak's a pretty fair cop. He's the sort of guy who uses razzle dazzle instead of his fists."

"Kojak will tap into the psychology of the neighbourhood rather than pull a gun. He uses the violence of being tough as a last resort rather than a first resort."

Telly, sipping a cocktail with his third wife Julie and grown up daughter Christina, went on: "I was born and raised on the streets of New York. Of course I came into contact with the local cops as a kid. So it is easy for me to portray a policeman like them."

"I based Kojak on the sort of guy who would be a neighbourhood cop in our area. When I was little, we looked on the policeman as saviours. They were the rulers of the place."

"The local cop was the sort of man you go up to and say: 'Look I don't have 10 cents to get on the subway to go home, they would give you the money, unless they thought you were busting them. So would Kojak.'

"We are talking about the old time cop on the beat. He was respected and looked up to. Tragically things have changed since then. But the cops are still my heroes."

Telly, relaxing in sweater and casual slacks before a radio interview, trotted further down nostalgia lane. He said: "Those cops were mostly Irish. The old story of New York was, 'the Italians built it, the Irish ran it and the Jews own it'."

"The area in which I grew up was poor but money but rich in so many other ways. For example, it was rich in closeness and in the neighbourhood sticking together."

"Unfortunately, things like this have passed us by. Now these neighbourhoods have got the world, they have become dangerous places to live. Hopefully — and I pray this — all this will change. I abhor street violence."

Telly, competing with seven television screens, all showing the same ice hockey match, added: "Most kids want to be a cowboy, a fireman or a policeman. But I never wanted to be a cop. That doesn't mean that I don't admire them."

"And law enforcement agencies all over the world identify with Kojak and love him. I visited them everywhere — Scotland Yard and — My God — into a remote part of Japan. They all say: 'At last we have an honest portrayal of what a policeman really does.'"

Telly is careful never to give an expert view on how the petty thieves in the series measure up to reality.

Viewers watching this new Kojak series may spot a family resemblance between Telly and one of the young actresses. For the actor, of Greek extraction, is unashamedly a family man. He said: "My daughter Candice is in every episode of this series."

"When you watch, you will love Candice. She is my TV secretary and my daughter. I love her, too."

Burly Telly is nothing if not physical — from here to paternity. He said: "I guess my favourite thing in life is making babies and raising them. How many do I have? Let's just say, a lot. And I love them all."

"My ambition was to live long enough to raise my babies. The youngest, Adriana, is three. Theo there's 500 of five. The next is fifteen... the next is... Ah well just forget about it."

Telly, a real life World War Two toughie with a Purple Heart Award for being wounded, went on softly, "When I'm out working I make it my first priority to help charities. Especially kids with cancer."

"For example, when I came to England I love visiting these little patients in hospital. You know it, when they have the chemotherapy, they lose their hair. But when they see my bald head, it's a kick to their spirits. They love it."

"They know I'm a celebrity. And seeing this bald headed actor is a thrill for both the children and their parents. I shall be doing some more hospital visits when I go to England this summer. I just adore kids."

The light fingered kids from the mean streets has come a long way. He graduated from college as a psychology major and landed a post job in the State Department.

Then he switched to a career in journalism, winning the Peabody Award for a Voice of America series. And as he reached his late thirties, Telly at last found his true vocation, acting.

He mostly played heavy villains at first. Then in 1962, he was nominated for an Oscar as best supporting actor, for the movie *Birds of a Feather*. Telly made scores of respected movies including *Battle of the Bulge* and *The Dirty Dozen*.

And amazingly, he found fame as a pop singer, too. He said "I've made lots of records. And can you believe me? I got to the top of the heap on Top of the Pops with a song I called 'If'. Then there was the number 'Who loves ya baby?'"

"I enjoyed it all. I sang for the Queen of England at the Royal Variety Show at the

SNIPPETS

Woman killed, 28 injured in 2 road accidents: A woman who was six months pregnant and 28 other persons were injured in two road accidents in Quezon City and in Mandaluyong.

In Quezon City, housewife Suzana Azana, 31, of 9 Kalayaan St. Batasan Hills, was pinned to death between two jeeps racing each other along Commonwealth Avenue. Six others were wounded.

Injured were her younger brother Ronnel Azana, 9; Lielzel Gualles, 13, of 254 Commonwealth Avenue; Elmer Bolano, 8, of Feria Road, Old Balara; Rowena Espedillon, 16, and Angelita Bajuyo, 7, also of 11 Feria Road; and Norman Sarmiento, 9, Riverside St. GAO area, Quezon City.

Azana and her brother were on their way to the younger brother's graduation when the two passenger jeeps hit them and the others.

In Mandaluyong, 22 passengers were injured when their bus hit the concrete railing of the EDSA overpass at the EDSA-Shaw Blvd.

One of the victims, machine operator Ernesto Orcino, 49, said the north-bound MCL bus 583 suddenly swerved to the left to head a stop light, climbed the gutter and hit the overpass railing.

Orcino told *People's Journal* the still unidentified driver of the Alabang-Fairview bus was apparently trying to edge out other buses so he could pick more passengers.

Police said charges of multiple physical injuries through reckless imprudence would be filed against the driver and the conductor who fled after the incident.

Crame armoury raider falls: The suspected leader of the Black Forest Commandos that staged a daring raid at the Camp Crame armoury on June 11, 1988, was arrested by anti-carnapping agents of the Quezon City police in Sampaloc, Manila.

Caught was PC Sgt Eduardo Flores, 34, of Dr. Alejo St., La Loma, said QC police chief Col Rodolfo Garcia.

Flores was in a white Nissan Stanza with license plate No. BBD-929 and had just fetched a balikbayan brother at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport when the policemen trailed him, Garcia said.

At the intersection of Quezon Blvd and Dapitan St in Sampaloc, the policemen's vehicle blocked the path of the Nissan Stanza.

QC anti-carnapping chief Lt. Alex Casanova said Flores' arrest came after three months of surveillance.

The Black Forest Commandos, identified with Marcos loyalists, stole several firearms from the armoury of Camp Crame.

The commandos, led by Flores and a Sgt Domingo Escarcha, also tried to snatch former governor Orlando Dulay from the Crame stockade.

Escarcha is still at large.

Student slain, 1 hurt: A student was stabbed to death and another was seriously wounded by a man suspected to be high on drugs in Quezon City.

Ariel Orate, 17, of 160 Golden Shower St., Barangay Payatas, Quezon City, died from stab wounds in the stomach and chest. Joel Ortino, 20, also of Golden Shower St., was wounded in the chest, police said.

Li Fluto Casayuran said Orate and Ortino were drinking with other neighbours at Nena's Store on Maligaya St when a man later identified as Paterno Doloren arrived and without even saying a word repeatedly stabbed Orate and Ortino. Doloren escaped after the stabbing.

NHI man wins tilt: Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus presented to Regine Paular the prize from the recent Boacchan Laboratories essay writing contest in Spain in a simple ceremony at the Philippine International Convention Centre.

Manglapus handed to Paular a plaque, a diploma and a cash prize of 250,000 pesos for winning third place in the contest.

Paular, a supervising history researcher at the National Historical Institute, bested some 1,000 contestants. A holder of a Master's degree in Spanish and a Master of Arts in psychology, Paular has won several essay contests since 1965.

Spain's Ambassador to Philippines Romeo Ramos assisted Manglapus in the awarding.

Teenagers caught in pot session: Two grade school girls and a high school boy suspected of raping a 14-year-old girl were arrested by police during a pot session in an abandoned house in Sampaloc, Manila.

Arrested were grade six students Gemmalyn Padas, 13, and Margie Cervantes, 14, and high school student Pepito Daong, 17, all residents of Sampaloc.

WPD Station 4 chief Maj. Cresencio Cabasal said the arrest came after the mother of the 14-year-old girl, who was raped two nights before, sought police help.

Casal and his men at once proceeded to the abandoned house owned by councilman Vicente Resurreccion and caught the young suspects in the act of smoking marijuana.

When grilled at the police station, Daong pointed to a certain Arnold and Allan as the rapists of the 14-year-old on March 13.

Police reported that Allan and Arnold went into hiding after the rape.

TB man in suicide: A tuberculosis patient jumped to his death from the third floor of the Quezon Institute on E. Rodriguez Blvd in Quezon City.

Francisco Gaboza, 50, of 260 Zaragoza St., Tondo, Manila died from a broken skull and bones, police said.

Witnesses told police that Gaboza was restless and acting paranoid. His room-mates said Gaboza bid them goodbye and dashed toward the terrace for the jump.

They said Gaboza had not been visited by relatives since his confinement in December.

Scavengers find headless man: The headless body of a man whose genital was also cut off by his killers was found by scavengers in a grassy area in Barangay Gaya-Gaya, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

The man, believed to be a salvage victim was naked when found. He was about five-foot in height, police said.

Police theorized that the man was killed in another place and the body was dumped in Barangay Gaya-Gaya to mislead the investigators. There were no trace of blood near the victim's body.

2 \$-sellers nabbed: Two sellers of fake US dollars were arrested Tuesday by National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents in Quiapo, Manila.

Francisco Dizon, 51, of 662 Marulas St., Ohbrero, Tondo, and Tomas Carreon, 63, of 920 del Paso St., Quiapo, gave up peacefully to the NBI anti-organized crime group headed by Diego Gutierrez.

The NBI men recovered from the suspects 30 fake \$100 bills.

Gutierrez said Dizon and Carreon sold fake \$100 for P200 to P600 each.

Dizon and Carreon told NBI that a certain Alex from Cebu City was their source of the dollars. They said Alex gave them P20 for every fake \$100 they sold.

The NBI charged them with illegal possession of counterfeit currency and economic sabotage.

3 women to jail for malverse: Three women collectors of the Cebu City Treasurer's Office were sentenced to four years imprisonment by the Sandiganbayan for running away with their collections.

Ros Malit was sentenced for 24 counts of malversation of public funds, Gloria Sulip for 16 counts, and Rosario Brenzueta for four counts.

Associate Justice Romeo Escarell said that the three women falsified receipts involving amounts ranging from P5 to P40 in their collections.

The anti-graft court said it proved that the accused it proved that the accused appropriated for the province of Cebu.

Luzon hijackers captured: Two members of a hijack gang operating in central and northern Luzon were arrested in Iligan, Isabela by PC soldiers while negotiating for the sale of more than P4 million worth of stolen cigarettes. Jaime de Guzman and Murphy Ganayo, both of barangay Mabini, Santiago, Isabela had 200 boxes of Philip Morris and Marlboro cigarettes which were part of the cargo their gang had taken at gunpoint from two delivery trucks of the La Suerte cigar factory at the Tarlac-Pangasinan boundary last week.

Lieut. Col Rex Piedad said the suspects admitted participation in the hijacking of the La Suerte delivery trucks and their boss as on Boy Pascual, a former PC sergeant.

Their other gangmates are Pedring and Fernando Castro, Piedad quoted the suspects as saying.

De Guzman and Ganayo are detained at the CIS headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

The Bataan Nuclear Power Plant revisited

LAST March 29 marked the 11th anniversary of the Three Mile Island incident. The day before, some newspapers reported a supposed statement from Sen. Enrile urging the government to "activate the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) in Morong, Bataan despite the risks posed by deadly radiation in case of a nuclear incident."

As the fourth anniversary of Chernobyl on April 26 neared, I supposed, it was good a time to revisit the question of the nuclear plant.

I am all for subjecting the matter to the political process, confident that we can defend the position not to gamble with the safety of our people.

I have been a student of the problem since January, 1978. When I was in the Cabinet, I headed the committee on the plant. I now chair the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on it.

The government's decision to mothball the BNPP was, first and foremost, based on safety concerns. President Cory has stated that she is not willing to gamble with the safety of our people. The policy decision not to operate a nuclear plant with serious unresolved safety questions is a responsible one.

Even the Supreme Court during the time of Marcos recognized serious concerns about the safety of the plant and prohibited the then Philippine Atomic Research Energy Commission (PAEC) from issuing an operating license.

Rafael Recto has been an eloquent critic of it. He studied the matter. He is ever ready to defend the Marcos record, but even he draws the line here.

Scientific reports have validated our serious unresolved safety concerns, e.g., a preliminary technical audit of international experts in 1988, confirmed the existence of grave safety and technical deficiencies in the plant.

The Bataan plant is only one of four of its type built outside the US. Three are in trouble with two being the subject of legal proceedings. The one in Brazil, from time to time, is called a "firefly plant" due to its off-and-on performance.

Preliminary audits suggest that at least hundreds of millions of dollars are needed to repair and upgrade the plant to contemporary state-of-the-art standards. It is difficult to estimate how much a full technical and safety audit and the corresponding programme to upgrade and correct them would cost. What will we use for money? Shaw could be correct that lack of money is the root of all evils.

Similar experiences in the United States can perhaps illustrate the problems. Three billions were spent to upgrade and repair the Comanche Peak and Zimmer plants but they have never been operated either.

Until a similar full-blown study of the PNPP is completed, there is really no way for us to urge responsibly its operation. But, this much we have determined. The defects in design and construction, found by the international panel in its preliminary audit, would not permit the BNPP, in its present condition, to be licensed in any country with nuclear power plants.

If our figures are correct, it may be more prudent for us to allocate our scarce resources to cheaper alternative sources of energy, given the many competing claims on our resources. The National Power Corporation has alternative plans.

Let us wait for our cases to be resolved, where, safety precisely is an issue. Why rush the matter on the eve of the trial and decision? Here is one question, where to the extent possible, our differences should end at the water's edge, consistently with truth and justice. We must speak with one voice against a powerful multinational engaging in sharp practices, such as bribery in Egypt, complete with a number account in Switzerland, and price-fixing and renegeing unilaterally on a uranium contract in the US.

We have never been opposed to nuclear power, per se, as a matter of policy. We are, however, against this defective plant which poses serious safety threats to our people.

The prejudice against nuclear power that the Bataan plant has created has not helped; that hidden cost is unquantifiable.

A nuclear plant has a limited life span. Estimates of the cost of

decommissioning a single modern power station range from \$90m to \$3 billion; and the technology to do so is untested.

And what of nuclear waste? Recently, in the United States, several states were embroiled in controversy regarding where to dispose nuclear waste. Ex-Senator Chic Hecht, concerned about federal plans to bury nuclear waste in his state of Nevada, vowed to oppose the project to make it a "nuclear suppository." (No wonder he had problems getting confirmed as ambassador.) The site could also cost billions of dollars to construct.

Where indeed do we put the waste that would be radioactive for hundreds, if not thousands of millions of years? Now, who among us would volunteer his or her province to be the depository of nuclear waste? Who would offer his region as the site of the place where the waste would be buried? The NIMBY syndrome is catching. Not In My Backyard.

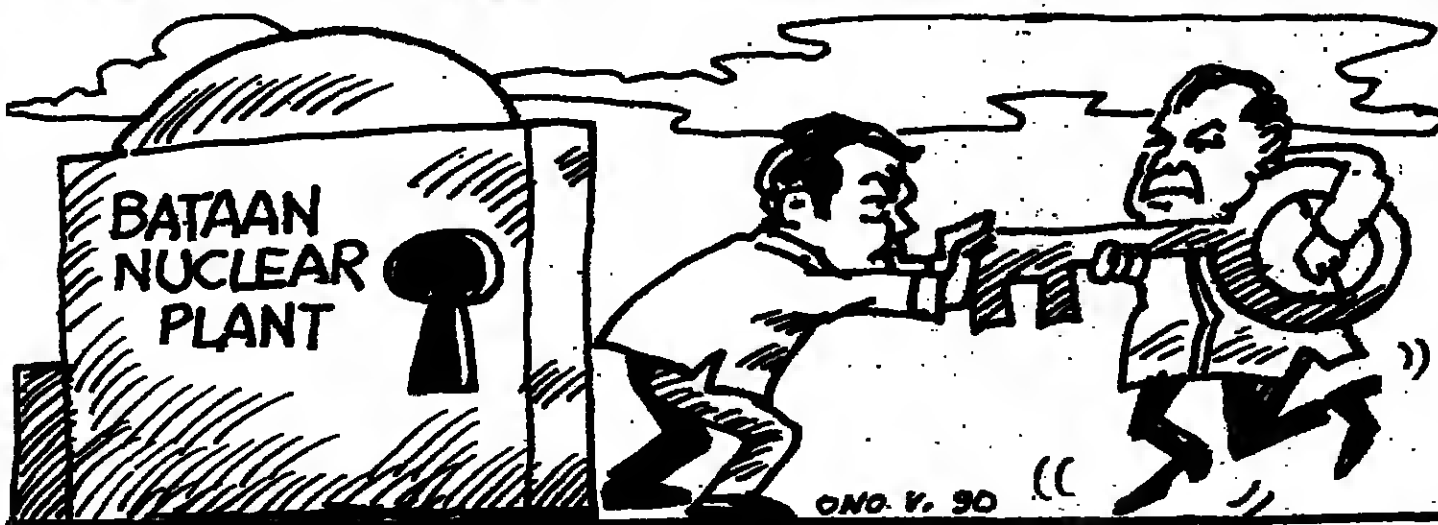
Are we prepared to cope with a disaster? A country that relies on foreign aircraft to reach ship disaster victims many hours after the event and with no decontamination system even? Where victims are not even put on stretchers or are towed at sea under embarrassing conditions? Victims of violence are simply covered with newspapers.

We would have become, so the ice cream of glowing personae before help could come. The repair on the leak of the piping of a nuclear reactor, which our Committee on Science and Technology investigated in 1988, I am informed, is still unfinished.

I have consistently maintained that I am willing to listen to any point of view in a democracy. As liberal as I am, I am not in the least someone else's right to express ideas I oppose.

"Four years later, the sights and sounds of the nuclear power station disaster at Chernobyl still resonate with chilling familiarity. Roaring flames shoot from the reactor's cooling tower. Roads are choked with terrified evacuees. Ghostly figures in white radiation suits move like apparitions. Few days later, Chernobyl and all its horrors were unfolding again in an unlikely setting, California's bucolic Marin County. Sequestered in the high-tech post-production studios of Star Wars creator George Lucas, Soviet film-makers were putting the finishing touches on *Rasputin* (collapse of deterioration), a full-length feature drama about nuclear power's worst catastrophe.

ONG. V. 30



A beauty and an heiress

SEVERAL things are expected of this heiress of hotel and real estate family.

It was expected of Katrina Enriquez Panfilio third child of Dr. & Mrs. Rebecca Panfilio, since the family interests may soon pass on the third generation.

Graduating with honours at the prestigious Wharton Undergraduate Business School in 1987, Katrina did so a year ahead of the prescribed four-year curriculum.

From there, she went to Italy to study the language which she now speaks fluently (aside from Spanish).

Proceeding to San Francisco, she got a job at San Francisco's foreign investment bank, Strategic Capital, Inc.

As expected also, it is in her blood to develop a fascination for real estate since the family is also into it. While there in San Francisco, she went into real estate developing with a partner who was a developer and together, they built private houses and condominiums.

I'd like to think that when one is engaged in real estate developing, one can always look back to it later and say, "I've helped build that it's not like a marketing strategy that works and then produces an x number of occupancy but this one is where you build something which people enjoy and live in. It's more complicated — like assessing the land, doing the figures, finding

investors, presenting the plan and talking to them."

Right now, Katrina works at the Tarnate Development Corp which she said is an extension of her work as a developer in San Francisco. As is also expected of her, she is vice president of marketing at the Silahis International Hotel which, she says, is also an extension of what she's learned in college. Here at the hotel, she monitors the performance of the sales manager and the public relations office which are two separate functions. With the PR office, she oversees everything from placement to budget to campaigns and promotions. For the sales department, it's mostly strategy which entails setting targets and defining the market sales that they choose.

When we first interviewed Katrina for a cover story of a magazine, we were previously working for, she was a senior student at the Poveda Learning School. One of the brightest in her class, she had a penchant for photograph which is still her interest until now along with being an excellent equestrienne.

She had a one-woman exhibit of her photographs at Puerto Azul and more than half of her collections were sold. What was intriguing about her pictures were the captions. There was this rare orchid called "Rival of the Rose," a beautiful sunset which she called "Afterglow," a girl devoid of make-up, titled

"Innocence," a picture of a Mercedes Benz which was titled, "Ex-poor," and others like a close-up of a leaf called "Anatomy of a Leaf," Sonata by Firelight, Paradise Found, or The Day is Done. Katrina lost her camera in the States. That was two years ago and she found it difficult to start on a new one. But since then she took courses in photography at school and she she has improved a lot.

"I like to go along with the Camera Club of the Philippines with Jaime Zobel." Mostly, she's into the beauty of nature (she finds them fascinating) and if she has the time, she goes around the country to complete her portfolio. She has taken a good number of shots in Boracay and is planning to explore Palawan's El Nido and other tourist spots in the country. She is always with friends when she takes a trip out of Manila, friends who are not afraid to wade into the wilderness to seek the hidden beauties of nature.

An excellent equestrienne, Katrina was chosen Rider of the year by the Manila Polo Club for being one of the five riders who came up with a perfect score in the jumping test. She was than in high school. She scored a total of 114 points to round up the Filipino team during category at the annual horsemanship of the club, she won the Class B honours. Naturally, Katrina has her own horse now and rides in Alabang.

When not busy with her twin-jobs, she reads a lot of good literature, listens to operas, does workouts and is now learning to play golf. She does not socialize, though, for she'd rather read or ride her horse.

What about her love life? "Not a very interesting topic... I imagine. Gee, Whiz, I have a lot of Italian friends, my classmates in college and also some from Frisco. Don't get me wrong but there are very few males here (modesty aside) who are up to my standards. I don't think that can deal with me. Their taste in women is a bit medieval. I think a lot of women a lot of think so."

Is there any special friend then? "If ever there is one, he should be above all, intelligent, sensitive and somebody I could respect."

"Once there is no respect in a relationship, all is lost. I am not after looks, mind you. I'd like one who can control me and he can't unless I respect him."

Katrina

By Dr Perfecto C. Cruz, MD Cosmetic Surgeon

COSMETIC surgeons are really artists at heart but have been frustrated, because of results that are always something less than perfect.

With a 90 per cent success rate aesthetically and physiologically on the five most commonly done procedures, patients consider coming to a cosmetic surgeon's office synonymous in entering a beauty shop.

The 5 most common procedures are:

1. Rhinoplasty or Nose lifting

2. Blepharoplasty

a. Upper Blepharoplasty or eye tuck, deep setting or double eye slit (among Chinese)

b. Lower Blepharoplasty or eye bag removal

3. Mammoplasty or breast lifting

4. Pylidectomy (Face lifting)

5. Chin and Cheek dimples

Years back, the above procedures are exclusive secrets of the rich and famous, but not anymore as a result of high success rate, affordability and acceptability by our society.

However, it is the author's opinion that this field (cosmetic surgery) should not open the door to anyone. It is necessary that the prospective patient should be thoroughly interviewed before any one of the above procedures should be done.

Candidates for cosmetic surgery should be psychologically prepared. He or she must understand his or her motivation for undergoing an operation. He or she must be ready for looking worse before looking good, or he'll be having nightmare

lead of miracles.

Right Motivation. To my mind this is the most important thing to dig from the patient. If a patient says she is seeking cosmetic surgery procedure for self improvement, then, by all means do not on him. However, if the answer is something like "I want to attract as many boys or girls" or as one candidate for breast lifting who said "I would like to keep my husband at night and not inside beer houses," I think first before doing one on her. Her motivation may be the wrong one and most likely she'll be unhappy with the results. Quite a number of patients I have sought cosmetic surgery to improve their chances of landing a job as modelling as entertainers or to go abroad for various purposes. These patients are the ones with good motiva-

tions and most likely the surgery will work for them.

Patient Must Be Realistic. Most of the time, idealistic patients end up unhappy or disappointed as they always look for doctors or sculptors who can contour or form their body parts in shapes they dream of. Some of my patients bring photos of their favourite models, actors and actresses and ask me if I can shape their noses or eyes the way their idols' are. These are the unrealistic patients and they end up unhappy after the operations. Male patients are a lot easier to please than female patients. The reason behind it is that as a whole, while female patients look at themselves individually; that is in terms of their eyes, nose, lips, etc.

By Dr Perfecto C. Cruz, MD Cosmetic Surgeon

COSMETIC surgeons are really artists at heart but have been frustrated, because of results that are always something less than perfect.

With a 90 per cent success rate aesthetically and physiologically on the five most commonly done procedures, patients consider coming to a cosmetic surgeon's office synonymous in entering a beauty shop.

The 5 most common procedures are:

1. Rhinoplasty or Nose lifting

2. Blepharoplasty

a. Upper Blepharoplasty or eye tuck, deep setting or double eye slit (among Chinese)

b. Lower Blepharoplasty or eye bag removal

3. Mammoplasty or breast lifting

4. Pylidectomy (Face lifting)

5. Chin and Cheek dimples

Years back, the above procedures are exclusive secrets of the rich and famous, but not anymore as a result of high success rate, affordability and acceptability by our society.

However, it is the author's opinion that this field (cosmetic surgery) should not open the door to anyone. It is necessary that the prospective patient should be thoroughly interviewed before any one of the above procedures should be done.

Candidates for cosmetic surgery should be psychologically prepared. He or she must understand his or her motivation for undergoing an operation. He or she must be ready for looking worse before looking good, or he'll be having nightmare

lead of miracles.

Right Motivation. To my mind this is the most important thing to dig from the patient. If a patient says she is seeking cosmetic surgery procedure for self improvement, then, by all means do not on him. However, if the answer is something like "I want to attract as many boys or girls" or as one candidate for breast lifting who said "I would like to keep my husband at night and not inside beer houses," I think first before doing one on her. Her motivation may be the wrong one and most likely she'll be unhappy with the results. Quite a number of patients I have sought cosmetic surgery to improve their chances of landing a job as modelling as entertainers or to go abroad for various purposes. These patients are the ones with good motiva-

tions and most likely the surgery will work for them.

Patient Must Be Realistic. Most of the time, idealistic patients end up unhappy or disappointed as they always look for doctors or sculptors who can contour or form their body parts in shapes they dream of. Some of my patients bring photos of their favourite models, actors and actresses and ask me if I can shape their noses or eyes the way their idols' are. These are the unrealistic patients and they end up unhappy after the operations. Male patients are a lot easier to please than female patients. The reason behind it is that as a whole, while female patients look at themselves individually; that is in terms of their eyes, nose, lips, etc.

Embassy corner

NCEE exams: A second chance

THE Philippine Embassy in Kuwait wishes to announce its decision to hold once again the National College Entrance Examinations (NCEE) for those who missed the first exams on April 15 April 1990.

The NCEE is a requirement for admission to Philippine colleges and universities, for both Filipino and foreign students.

The next NCEE exams are scheduled to be held at the embassy premises on Thursday, May 31 1990, from 8:00 a.m. Those interested may apply at the embassy at anytime from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm from Saturday to Wednesday until May 30 1990. Please submit two copies of your latest passport size photos, complete the NCEE registration form, and pay the registration fee of \$ 50 or KD16.250 at the embassy.

The annual results of the NCEE examination shall be valid for college or university admissions beginning the first semester of the school year immediately following the year of taking the NCEE. It is best, therefore, that students who have just finished their third year of high school apply and take the examinations so that if accepted, they may immediately be admitted into the Philippine college or university of their choice right after graduation from high school or secondary school.

For further details/questions, please approach Mr. Guinomia of the embassy. Following is the embassy's address and telephone numbers:

Embassy of the Philippines, Jabriya, Area 10, Police Station Street House 363, Jabriya, Kuwait.

Tel: 532-9315/6/7/8/9. Mailing address: P.O. Box 26288, Safat 13123

Salanga anthology launched

"A PERSONAL Chronicle 1971-1987," a collection of the journalistic pieces of Alfredo Navarro Salanga, published by the De La Salle University Press, was launched on May 4.

The book spans more than a decade of Salanga's writing culled from five remarkable periods in his career as magazine writer, columnist, and editor, containing observations and commentaries on the events during the Marcos years.

Salanga's analytic prose earned for him recognition such as the Catholic Mass Media Award for Best Opinion Column in 1983, and the Ten Outstanding Young Men award for literature and journalism in 1985.

National Artist Nick Joaquin wrote the foreword while specific articles were carefully selected by noted scriptwriter Pete Lacaba.

Gus Micalat, veteran journalist Ben Afuang, columnist Rod Dula and Dimini Torrevillas Suarez.

Proceeds from the sales of the book will be used to finance the Alfredo Navarro Salanga Memorial Foundation annual journalism workshop which will be conducted for deserving young journalists selected by outstanding editors and writers.

For details about the book, call the Salanga Foundation c/o Consortium for Progress Inc at 774373.



Rita Avila: a female sculptor

A long time ago, Easter Sunday was very much awaited by movie buffs. A big foreign film was normally reserved for that Sunday or rejoicing. The practice has long been forgotten.

Now it's Black Saturday that's becoming to be a special Holy Week day for local film producers. One such producer is Robbie Tan. For the second time, the movie baron has a film for Black Saturday, and it's Maruo Gia. Samonte's *Machete*, which launches Cesar Montano as a full-fledged actor. *Machete* is a Prometheus and Galatea type of film in the reverse. The female sculptor is Rita Avila and Montano is the male Galatea.

Rene and Genny: in business & pleasure

SOME psychologists may cringe at the idea of a husband and wife together in one business, one office. Often, their apprehension on that score is proven right. But when the business is a labour of love of both partners, the story could be very different — as in the case of Rene and Genny Nieva.

Rene is president of Perceptions Incorporated, a public relations company providing PR, advertising and various communications services to corporations, financial institutions, government agencies and trade associations.

Genny has all the traits of a devoted old-fashioned wife combined with the efficiency of an office executive. She has, after all, spent eight years of her life as assistant to the director of the Division of Public Administration and Finance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York. Together, Rene and Genny represent a remarkable picture of a modern couple expertly managing a highly competitive business by happily complementing each other's talents to the nth degree.

Rene is the creative partner, deeply immersed in the conceptualization and implementation of PR programmes, while Genny attends to the internal administrative and housekeeping aspects of the enterprise. As they laughingly point out, Rene is the dreamer and Genny is the realist.

Extremely qualified as a PR specialist by temperament, training and experience, Rene shies away from such mundane trivia as financial details and routine procedures which he conveniently dumps into the capable lap of Genny. This arrangement partly accounts for the phenomenal success of their company within the span of three years from a three-man staff to the present compact on-going PR office with a complement of 23. One measure of its success is the fact that Perceptions, Inc. has since branched out with a sister company, Front Page, which is into graphics and computer-aided services which are complemen-



Rene (left) and Genny (2nd from right) with Winnie & Noel.

tary to Perceptions' communications activities.

Rene had always dreamed of putting up his own PR office. And A.B. Economics degree holder from the Ateneo University, and of a master of arts degree in corporate and political communications from the Fairfield University in Fairfield, Connecticut, U.S.A., he worked for the New York international PR firm of Curtis J. Hoxter from 1969 to 1976, rising to the post of vice-president, the first Filipino to fill such a high-level position in the PR industry in the US.

Rene never really wanted to live and work in New York for long but kept postponing their return to the Philippines as they enjoyed and learned so much from New York, the "greatest and most dynamic city in the world," as Rene always describes it. But finally in 1976, hearing of his mother's worsening illness, Rene decided to return to the Philippines to be near her during her remaining years.

The EDSA revolution in 1986 encouraged Rene to put up his own PR office. Rene believed that the restoration of press freedom and the general ambience of optimism and gradual recovery of the country's economy was an opportune time

to be on his own. So he resigned from Exxon, where he was already public affairs associate for the Asia Pacific at the time based in Hong Kong, and again returned to the Philippines.

Genny was more than willing to handle office administration, backed by her own UN experience and more importantly as the right-hand and assistant of Tse Tsun Chang who she valued her services that when she left for the Philippines in 1976, she kept her position open for six months in case she decided to come back to New York. Genny smiles now when she recalls how she and Rene worked seven days a week and 18 hours a day during Perceptions' early months.

Today, their present regular clients include Asian Institute of Management, Araneta Group of Companies (Pizza Hut and United Promotions), and many others. In addition, they have done special projects for regular as well as occasional clients.

Rene and Genny really surprised their friends and relatives when they decided to come back to the Philippines after almost 10 years in New York. And when they bought a lot in Violeta Subdivision in Guiguinto, Bulacan to build a house and commute from there to Makati, they were asked, "Why live in the province

after New York?"

The couple smiles at these reminiscences. "For one thing," Rene said, "we wanted our children to grow up the way we did, experience family closeness, to love nature, be respectful to their elders, see how sincere and without pretenses are the people in the province. Besides, we were tired of the hectic pace of life in New York, and we missed the warmth of family relationships. Also, we did not want our children to have false values."

So they built a house in the province, planted gardens, cooked native food and mingled with relatives and neighbours, blissfully.

The Nievas have two children, a boy and a girl: Noel, 18, tall as gregarious as his father; Rowena, 15, lithe and lovely, with very expressive eyes. Both were born in New York.

Perceptions may be a family corporation, but it is not run like a family enterprise. Rene addresses Genny as Ms Nieva and she has her own cubicle. Perceptions, he insists, works on a team basis.

One notable policy is Rene's obsession to develop the potentials of people under him, who are usually young, sometimes fresh graduates. He has sent them out on provincial assignments as in the search of outstan-

ding rural physicians in Hoechst's civic project to identify and honour physicians doing significant work in the hinterlands. This project was one of the most cherished of Rene's brain-children, inspired by his mother's devoted stint as a rural doctor in Pampanga.

Genny is happy with her present set up: she is not only with her husband 24 hours a day, but is closely associated in his work, enjoying Rene's full confidence and reliance on her judgement. When not on meetings, press conferences, squiring the current Ms Hong Kong on her annual goodwill tour of Manila, Rene and Genny take their lunch together at the office, and talk over the day's events.

They both laugh merrily to the question: "How did Genny come into your life?"

Before he left for New York, they had been office-mates at the Business Relations International Inc. in Manila, where Rene was PR director, while Genny who had an A.B. degree, major in economics, from the University of the Philippines worked in the research department. If one can separate the chaff from the grain, he was always surrounded by beautiful girls, while she had a crush on one of the men in the office ("I did not know about that," says Rene). A year after Rene left for New York, Genny went to work at the United Nations in New York. "She followed me," chuckles Rene, while Genny smiles at his teasing. Rene who was then rooming with a friend, had met Genny at the J.F. Kennedy airport and escorted her to her uncle's house in Upper Manhattan.

Looking at Rene and Genny now, after 20 years of marriage, working at a business they both love, it is easy to see the dependence of one on the other. Before going out to a meeting, Rene goes to Genny's part of the office to inquire: "Should I wear a coat or barong?" Genny considers for a minute, and suggests "Perhaps the barong?" Sometimes Rene still wears the coat, but more often than not he'll wear the barong.

From the provinces

BUTUAN CITY: The regional trial court (RTC) in Cagayan de Oro City has sentenced a former Agusan mayor and his driver to life imprisonment for the murder of a business rival.

In a 56-page decision, President Judge Alfredo J. Langman sentenced to life imprisonment Tranquilino Calo Jr., former mayor of Carmen, Agusan del Norte, and his driver, Bellarmino Alcocod.

Judge Lagamon said that Calo and Alcocod were co-principals and "the act of one conspirator were charged with killing former Agusan del Norte board member and former Nasipit mayor Mariano Corvera Sr on March 10, 1988."

According to the court decision, Corvera was shot dead in the courtroom of RTC branch II by Pablo Macapagal, personal bodyguard of Calo who is still at large.

The RTC branch II was then hearing the case of Calo and Corvera who were fighting for control of the arrestee stevedoring service in Nasipit.

Lagamon said that conspiracy was directly established and that the prosecution presented air-tight evidence that Calo handed a gun to Macapagal when the RTC court branch II session adjourned on March 10, 1988 in the morning. The car of Calo was also used by Macapagal as the getaway vehicle, the court said.

The witnesses and the evidence against Calo and Alcocod established the element of premeditation. The court sentenced both accused to suffer the penalty of reclusion perpetua.

Calo and Alcocod were also ordered to indemnify the heirs of Corvera in the amount of P1.5 million.

The counsel of Calo said he will file a motion for reconsideration of the decision.

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga: Government troops killed holdup men and captured three others in a brief shootout two days ago on MacArthur highway, barangay Anupol, Bani han, Tarlac, a PC report said.

Col. Rodrigo Batyo, Tarlac PC-INP commander, identifies the fatalities as Eddie Albano and a certain "Randy." Arrested were Vergal Perez, 23, of Pudinot; Dennis Albano, of Luna; and Alberto Livy, also of Pudinot, all in Kalayaan-Apayao.

The holdup was reported to the police by Conrado Gomez, driver of a Toyota Hi-Lux with license plate numbers FBE-542 which the eight men held up.

Gomez said at least eight armed men participated in the holdup. Aside from the P50,000 cash, they also took away the vehicle which is owned by the Tarlac Reforestation Environmental Enterprises.

In a report to Col. Agencio Kagaon, acting commander of 3rd PC-INP regional command, Balayo said the robbers were riding in a commandeered Toyota Hi-Lux and speeding towards east of Banihan when they were spotted by the lawmen.

But Balayo said when his men gave chase, the commandeered vehicle bogged down, forcing the holdup men to fire at the lawmen.

In the ensuing gunbattle, two of the men died on the spot. Three of them gave up, while the other three escaped.

GUMACA, Quezon: Judge Alfredo L. Cantos of the Quezon Regional Trial Court (RTC) dismissed the habeas corpus petition filed against Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos, AFP chief of staff Renato S. de Villa, Brig. Gen. Evaristo G. Carino, Recom 4 PC-INP chief, and Col Reynaldo G. Wyocco, Quezon PC-INP commander.

Judge Cantos issued the dismissal order after the withdrawal of the petition by lawyer Rogelio Cortez, counsel of the father of arrested suspect New People's Army (NPA) rebel Antonio Pajalla, alias "Ka Philip."

Contas has earlier ordered Wyocco to produce the body of Pajalla following his arrest in Macaleon, Quezon, last Feb 12 by troops of the 234th PC Company led by Capt Mark Edison Belama.

Pajalla claimed that his life would be in danger if he transferred to the provincial jail. He expressed preference to be in the custody of the PC in Camp Nakar.

Wyocco said that Pajalla was with a group of some 300 NPA rebels that raided San Francisco town on Feb. 3, 1988, killing the police chief,

Capt. Victorino Napenas, and Patrolman Raul Ojastro. Pajalla was among the accused by "a Roger" and 20 other NPAs in a case filed in connection with the raid.

MANILA: A bill was filed in Congress that seeks to provide greater autonomy for barangays by establishing a barangay development fund which serves the common welfare of all barangays in the country.

Authored by Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Jr., Reps. Victor F. Ortega, Jose D. Aspiras, Speaker Pro Tempore Antonio J. Cuenco and Ronaldo Andaya and coproduced by 132 congressmen, House bill 29920 will benefit the nation's more than 42,000 barangays.

The bill provides that an annual amount of P100,000 will be given to each barangay in the country. Its leaders, through the barangay council, will disburse the amount through projects that best serve the collective interest of the people.

Ortega and Aspiras of the first and second district of La Union, respectively, said the fund would be used exclusively to finance priority development projects in each barangay. They said a problem in each barangay is distinct from the others; hence, the bill would do justice to the barangay's cause and welfare besides complying with the constitutional mandate of streamlining local government autonomy.

If approved, the measure will mean far-reaching effects, including income generation, as the project will be done by the people themselves in the area and spur greater economic activity in the countryside, Ortega and Aspiras added.

QUEZON CITY: A city hall official exposed a "land syndicate" operating in several barangays in Quezon City.

QC senior executive assistant Sonny Bernardo said the group deprives hundreds of poor families from acquiring lots by using fake land titles and selling prime lands to influential or rich people.

Bernardo said the faking of land titles is rampant in barangays Payatas, Holy Spirit, and Batasan Hills.

He added that the modus operandi of the group leads to doubling of titles of prime lots being sold in the city. This covers sizeable portions of lands intended for housing development for low- and middle-income families.

The QC official also blamed the delay in the implementation of several development projects in the city on the group.

The city government has projected that some 27,000 families from squatters areas would benefit from the government's housing and land development projects by 1992.

City hall officials added that the activities of the group, which have remained unchecked, have adversely affected the selling of lands by private land developers to prospective buyers. The group, they said, has goons to drive away lot owners from the city.

MANILA: Nichimen Corp through its allied company, Columbia Motors Philippines, questioned the hiding methods of National Irrigation Administration.

Nichimen and Columbia both representing Nissan, said that Nichimen, representing Nissan Diesel Motor Co. Ltd., one of the most prestigious truck and tractor manufacturers in the world, submitted the lowest bid price when sealed bids opened last Sept 19. The bid was for the truck requirement of NIA.

A Columbia Motors spokesman said that Nichimen submitted the lowest bid, beating Tierra Factors Corp. representing Kenworth of the US, by around P1 million (using the peso-dollar conversion rate at that time).

The spokesman said that when Nissan won the bid, the prequalification bids and awards committee of NIA insisted that Nissan must submit documents showing that the load on the fifth wheel should be minimum of 15,500 kilograms.

Nissan dutifully submitted the aforesaid documents but to its surprise, the awards committee opted to award the bid to the second lowest bidder, Tierra Factors Corp.

The Columbia Motors spokesman, representing Nissan Motors of Japan, expressed surprise why the Tierra Factors was singled out in spite of two infirmities in its bid.

The spokesman said that Tierra Factors does not have an authority to bid and it was in fact the second to the lowest bidder to that of Nissan.

The spokesman further said that Toshiba Tokunaga, general manager of Nichimen, already wrote Jose del Rosario, NIA administrator, about the lameness of the bidding method at NIA but up to this day, the administrator has remained silent on the matter.

IFUGO: Former congressman Romulo B. Lumaug will run for regional governor in the elections for officials of the newly created Cordillera Autonomous Region of Ifugao in March next year, sources said last week.

Lumaug, 59, filed his certificate of candidacy last month after the people of the province voted for self-rule in a plebiscite held February. Four other provinces — Mountain Province, Kalinga-Apayao, Abra and Benguet, including Baguio City — voted against it.

Lumaug, a grantee of the South Asia Treaty Organisation (Seato) for public administration with specialty in ethnic minority, will run against Pawing Parades and Mrs Felicissima Lumaug, wife of his younger brother, Gualberto, it was gathered.

"We need a more experienced leader like Romulo Lumaug who can work with his brother, Gualberto, in the newly created region to serve our people," said Aristoteles Homocay, a native of Aginaldo town in Ifugao and student at the University of Sto. Tomas.

Romulo Lumaug was elected congressman of Ifugao in 1969. His brother, Gualberto, is the current congressman representing Ifugao.

MANILA: Sen. John H. Osmena has stressed the need for a "true conciliator" like his late grandfather, former President Sergio Osmena Sr. in country that "cries out for reconciliation not conflict, for sacrifice not selfish interest."

Osmena drew attention to this national need during the launching by the Philippine Press Institute (PPI) of the "Osmena Book Fair" last Thursday at Puerto Isabel, Instrumuros, Manila.

"There is absent in our nation today a Sergio Osmena — the conciliator whose life was dedicated to hindering the wounds of the nation," the QC senator said. "The national interest was supreme to him and many a time did he sacrifice himself for what he perceived to be the greater good."

Osmena said that also "absent is a national consensus, a national agenda and a national leadership. Absent is the art of statecraft."

He noted that "conflict between the settler and the small farmers who are the backbone of the rural middle class and the landless. Both have just causes."

And the only solution, Osmena said, is for one to conciliate this conflict of just causes, this conflict of divergent approaches to the single undisputed goal of social justice.

CABANATUAN CITY: Three murder suspects were nabbed by troops by the 183rd PC company led by Capt. Sukarno Ikhala at barangay San Carlos, Cabiao, Nueva Ecija.

Col. Ferdinando Lagman, Nueva Ecija PC-INP chief, identified the suspects as Antonio Rubio, alias "Ka Carol"; Santos Baranquil, alias "Ka Dolfo"; and Gregorio Sagmal, alias "Kay Boy." Three ArmaLite rifles, two rifle grenades, and ammunition were taken from them.

Ikhala told Lagman the suspects were responsible for killings in barangay Sta. Rita, Cabiao, last March 10. Lagman said he had ordered the arrest of all wanted persons in Nueva Ecija. He also alerted his men against possible attacks of NPA rebels during the Holy Week.

DAET, Camarines Norte: The Camarines Norte Association (Canoras) held its 4th annual medical clinic in Vinzons town on April 15.

Indigent patients availed themselves of the opportunity to be examined by a medical team coming from Metro Manila and from the various hospitals in the province.

Dr. Miguel Ponaya and Dr. Justo Lukban led the medical team that will examine the patients free of charge, according to Brig Gen. (ret.) Antonio B. Lukban, Canoras president, and lawyer Serafin Rivera, chairman.

Money talk

LARRY shook his head bitterly. "I never could understand this world. No justice. None at all." He took a sip of iced tea, lighted a cigarette. "A guy like that, gets his first look of life from a solid gold cradle in a room where the wallpaper is made of money. He's a born winner, he can't lose. It's already decided that he'll be president of the old man's company before he knows what the word means. You call that fair?"

"Oh, you haven't heard the half of it," said Lyn. "Grace Ronquillo, the girl I'm replacing, told me that Jaime Alegre sheds wives like soiled clothes. He's on his third. They have a big place in Tagaytay, and penthouse in Makati. They fly to the States whenever the mood strikes them, and once a year they go on a luxury cruise to some fascinating part of the world. Imagine!"

"Sorry," said Larry with a sad little smile. "I can't quite imagine all that. It must be on another planet. Maybe it's heaven. But I've got one thing Alegre hasn't, and that's you! Just let him once get playful with my girl, and I'll kill him with my bare hands. I'll break him up in sections you could feed a cat!"

Lyn chuckled, but only to cover a stah of fear. Larry wasn't kidding! One time when they were down at the corner bar, a man tried to get cute with her. Larry would have strangled that man to death if they hadn't pulled him off in time, and Larry had warned that if she ever deserted him for another man, that man would live no longer than it took Larry to find him. This was a side of Larry which disturbed Lyn, kept her always a little on edge.

Near the close of her third month in the new job, Mr. Alegre told Lyn he was wildly in love with her, but Paula pretended not to take him seriously. "If you really love me," she said, closing her dictation book and offering up a sly wisp of smile, "you'd do something noble for me. Like, you might give Larry a job as vice-president in charge of — of the mail room or something. Then we could live in the style you'd like us to become accustomed to."

Mr. Alegre was not amused. He came from behind the little office bar which vanished when you pushed a button. Solemnly, he offered Lyn a cup of coffee, then sat on a corner of his desk and stirred his own drink.

"I'm afraid," he said unsimilingly, "vast as my love for you is, dear Lyn, it does not include Larry. As a matter of fact there is no room at all for Larry in this very pleasant picture I am trying to visualize."

"Oh," said Mr. Alegre, snickering. "Poor Larry. Whatever shall we do with him?"

"We could," said Mr. Alegre, "dispose of him in the same way I am disposing of Nadia."

"That sounds pretty grim," Lyn replied lightly, a smile on her lips.

"Not at all," Mr. Alegre reached across his desk for a gold lighter and flamed his cigarette. "I sent Nadia out to Guam for a divorce. Very friendly. It's all agreed."

Lyn could barely conceal her astonishment. "Well," she said numbly, "I certainly hope that this has nothing to do with —"

"No," said Mr. Alegre, "We've been drifting apart for some time. All three of my marriages have been terrible mistakes. It's as if, unconsciously, I married the sort of dull social flowers my father would have chosen for me. He did actually arrange my first marriage, and I thought there was too much at stake to make him angry."

"But until I met you, Lyn, love was just a word, not a heart-twisting emotion that drives every other thought from my mind."

"I'm flattered," Lyn said sincerely. What had begun as an exciting game with no end result but the expansion of her ego, now seemed madly out of control. How could she retreat gracefully and keep her job? She decided to play it by ear.

"About Larry," said Mr. Alegre, "did you ever think of separating with him?"

"No, it never occurred to me. Why should it? And

even if I did want to leave him, I couldn't."

"Why?"

"Because he wouldn't let me."

"Nonsense, Lyn. How could he stop you?"

"Well, he would know there had to be another man involved. And he would hunt that man down and kill him."

"You're joking," Mr. Alegre said.

"If you think I'm joking, then that's only because you don't know Larry. He's perfectly normal and sane — except when it comes to me. Take my word, if it cost him his life, he'd kill any man who tried to steal me away." This startling truth might keep him at bay.

"Mr. Alegre frowned. "I believe you," he said. "Though I'm not exactly the violent type, I can understand how he might feel that way about some one like you." He drained his glass in a gulp. "Well," he added mysteriously, "that does pose a problem."

"It does? What sort of problem?"

"Some other time, when you're in a more receptive mood. I'll tell you."

Lyn was now intensely curious and wanted to hear more, but his manner closed the subject. He was withdrawn as he crossed the room and stared silently down into the shadows of the late afternoon enveloping the city. She quietly left him.

Lyn did not mention the incident to Larry. No use stirring up trouble needlessly. She would gaily, laughingly, tell him the whole crazy story later, when Jaime Alegre got around to showing all his cards.

Meanwhile, she was overcome with curiosity. If he came up with some sort of sly, nasty proposition, she would probably lose her temper, and her job. On the other hand, if a man like Jaime Alegre who could take his pick of almost any woman in the world, was truly serious about her.

How exciting that would be! With pride, with a wistful air of nobility and self-sacrifice, she would be able to say to her girlfriends, "Only a word, just one word, and I could have been Mrs. Jaime Alegre, the wife of a millionaire, living in luxury for the rest of my life! But of course, I turned him down for the love of Larry. And I've never been sorry."

When more than three weeks passed, and Mr. Alegre was merely kind and attentive without once returning to the subject of his undying love for her, Lyn was disappointed. Perhaps he had only been playing a sneaky game to see if she were ripe for seduction. But no, he had never made a single pass at her. He was almost aloof.

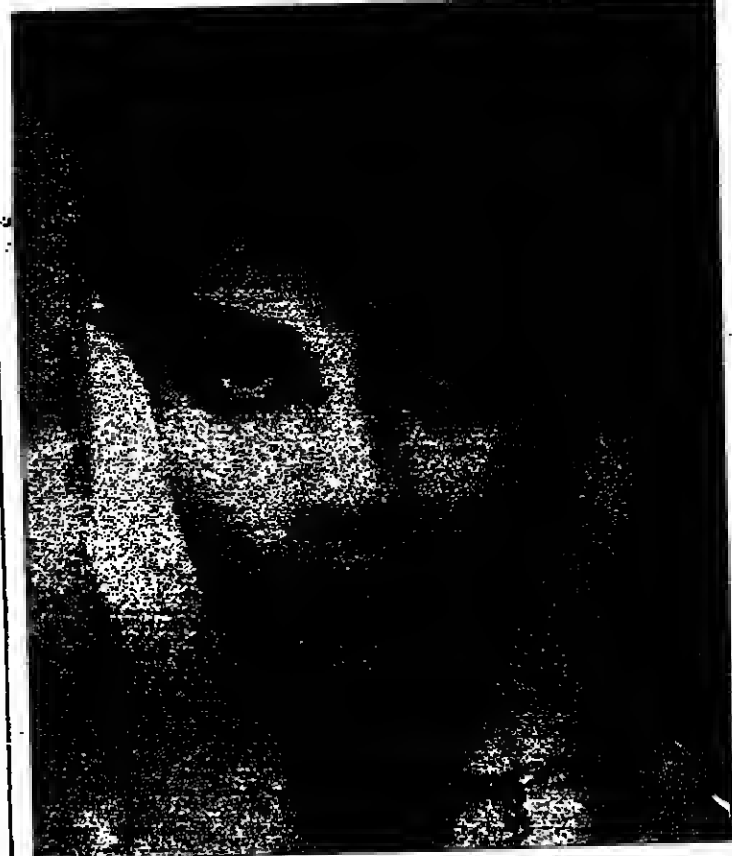
It had to be Larry. He was afraid of Larry. Why, oh why, had she told him the truth about Larry? Now she would never know what he had really intended.

On a Monday morning several days later, Mr. Alegre did not appear at the office. He called in to tell Lyn he had some personal matters to attend to and was taking the day off. There were, however, some business letters which had to go out and he was sending his chauffeur to bring Lyn to his penthouse in Ayala avenue.

Lyn smelled something in the wind but she was more excited than alarmed. Riding across town in the long sparkling limousine, she tried to look casual and just a bit haughty, pretending that she was, indeed, Mrs. Jaime Alegre, a person so accustomed to splendid living that she was just a little bored with it all. People turned to stare enviously at her and she felt very grand.

A uniformed mayor domo bowed her into the study of the penthouse, his manner so obsequious she could have been royalty. Sitting by the window in that quietly regal sanctuary, gazing down at the bland surface of the city, Lyn felt as if she had entered the gates of paradise.

Larry had been right. A man like Jaime Alegre was so removed from pettiness and squalor, from the noisy shoving masses in their grubby surroundings, he might just as well exist on another planet.



Rina Reyes' new image

SINGER-actress Rina Reyes is the latest to join the bold bandwagon. She is at her boldest as she delineates the role of a bar dancer in *Man sa Ina*, launching vehicle of Rita Avila.

Rina feels she is the toast of town, since she is currently doing two films simultaneously, *Man sa Ina* with Cesar Montano playing the lead role and *David Balondo* with Tondo, starring Ramon Revilla. Rina has also begun filming *Bloodstain 2*, where she plays leading lady to actor star Don Wilson.

Because of her hectic shooting schedules, Rina has to take a leave of absence from *Golpe de Gula*, her daily TV show on Channel 7.

Guess where Richard Gomez is spending Holy Week?

In Boracay, that's where. Richard though won't be going there all by himself. He will be with his baka, which includes business manager Douglas Quijano and movie reporter Babette Villaruel.

Says Babette: "Last year, I was also with Richard and we had with us, Joey Marquez, Richard's good friend."

"But I doubt if Joey can join us this Holy Week. He is now a married man. And if I know Ness (pet name for Joey's wife, Alma Moreno), he'd prefer to stay home for the Holy Week. She has become quite religious these days. Besides, she's pregnant. Joey will no doubt prefer to stay with her than with his baka."

Babette adds.

Ep Pozon, Jr. has always been open about his big crush for his fellow Viva Recording contract star 15-year-old Vina Morales. She is, in fact, the reason why he chose to sign up with Viva Records instead of two other recording outfits, which had earlier showed interest in getting him. Vina is a Viva Records contract star herself.

When Ed staged his birthday concert entitled "8-Teen" at the Cosmo Lounge in Greenhills recently, he personally invited Vina to be his special guest.

The highly energized concert with music arranged to a synthesized sound was directed by Jet Montelibano. Musical director was Butch Elizalde, who prepared a repertoire becoming to Ed.

Jet, if you remember, was the director of Gary Valenciano's first big concert, "Gary V. A Live," at the Araneta Coliseum years back. Even then, according to Jet, he already saw an ace in Gary.

"I am pretty sure that after this particular concert to Ed, his star will also rise to a new high," Jet says.

Before Bala at Rosaryo, Vision Films producer Charo Santos had several scripts sent to Bong Revilla, which the latter rejected.

"It was different, though, when I got Bala at Rosaryo (a novel in Commander Komiks written by ace komiks writer, Pablo Gomez). Right away, I knew it was the right material for me. It is as if I fought my way from a people who tortured and killed my loved ones. It is as if I fought my way from a people who unjustly sent that I met Kristine (Garcia), a young and pretty nun who erases the hatred in my heart. I would eventually fall in love with her," relates Bong.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

MARKETPLACE

**AL-FAJER
TAXI
Salmiya**
**TEL: 5747588
5747587
5747599**
Call Taxi

FOR RENT
Villas, half villas and
flats with swimming
pool
Tel: 2401908 - 2407677
2451489 - 2451476
FAX 2403280
The All Real Estate

**Al Ibrahim
Taxi**
Tel. 2400013,
2400014, 2400015

Farwaniya branch
Tel. 4745600,
4745900

[illegible]

محرمیت اللہ
افشاں دائرہ چہا تھا قد
۱۴ جون کو روانہ ہو چکا
اور پاشا قریب تر پہنچا اور اگر کدو پھینک لیوں
کا (انتظام) اور پاشا کی باوجود پاشا کی خدمات حاصل کی
لیں گے اور پاشا کی جائزہ میں کافے جہلے کا
بند و بستی بھی ہے۔
مزید معلومات کے
لیے
فہم سماج مالک فریڈریش
4334868
جسٹس شاعر شری قریب سوتہ ملہا کرکے

**International
Travel Corporation**
OFFERS YOU

1. TICKETING SERVICE
2. MONEY REMITTANCE
3. AIR & SEA CARGO WORLD-
WIDE
4. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE
5. PACKING-FORWARDING &
6. SPECIAL SERVICE DOOR
TO DOOR TO PHILIPPINES

Ask for
Connie & Igbei
Contact Tel. Nos. 2407252, 2467600

**Immediately
required**
**A health club
requires
a female
aerobics trainer**
**Tel. 5382340
5390351**

 **WE
DELIVER** 
COMPETITIVELY
LUZON • VISAYAS • MINDANAO
FASTEST • SAFEST • RELIABLE

Jamal Al-Ghanim
Cargo Services
DOOR TO DOOR
Call Yolly
02-375-0500 364-1226 364-2277

COMPUTER STUDIES

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR
SUMMER SPECIAL
25% DISCOUNT**

COURSE	HOURS	FEES
INTRODUCTION TO IBM PC	10	25
DATA ENTRY	10	25
USER OPERATIONS	25	25
WORD PROCESSING (BILINGUAL)	25	25
INTRO TO LOTUS 1-2-3, EXCEL	20	25
WENTZ TO GRADE IV, FOXBASE GRADE PROGRAMMING	20	100

*OFFICIALS: \$74 - JAYDA HERR
*OFFICIALS: TOPPING BY BILLY PERKINS.

ATSUK DIPLOMAS

CompuBase™

2407282, SAKURA COMPUTER, INC. IN

REQUIRED
A male
secretary
Fluent in typing Arabic and English. Must be experienced in secretarial work and hold a transferable residence.
Call Tel: 2460757-2460737

Restaurant & coffee house
with CAC for sale in
Kuwait City.
**Area: beside the
municipal garden**
Tel: 2407200-1

A leading marine company requires the following staff:

- 1. Mechanics, inboard & outboard**
- 2. Electricians**

Contact Immediately
tel: 4849185 All/Kerry,
8 am to 1 pm, 4 to 7 pm.

OFFICE AVAILABLE
Fully furnished
**FOR SALE OR
TO SHARE**
Rent KD 180/-
Sharq, Hilali St.
Also available gift &
advertising licence and
**PHOTO-TYPESETTING
MACHINE.**
Call -4734213/2405153

REQUIRED
Full/part-time,
an experienced
technician
for servicing - radios,
tape-recorders, mixers,
cameras, emergency
lantern etc.
Call - 24661688. 2466212

**WANTED
SALESMAN**
Who has five years' experience in industrial equipments. (oil sectors, MEW, PIC). Must have a driving licence. Transferable visa No. 18.
Please contact
2407181/2450579
Timings: 8 am to 1 pm

THE ALL REAL ESTATE VILLAS

**2401908, 2452091 2452047, 2451476
2407677, 2452074 2452046, 2451489
SALWA**

1 storey 4 bed with mulhaq.	KD 500
2 storey 3 bed.	KD 600
2 storey new deluxe villa.	KD 1200

MISHRIF

2 storey with 4 bed.	KD 650
2 storey with 5 bed.	KD 550
Villa for ambassador.	KD 1200

SURRA

1 storey new villa.	KD 700
2 storey new villa.	KD 900

JABRIYA

2 storey villa 7 bed with mulhaq, s.pool.	KD 1000
2 storey villa with 5 bed.	KD 650
New villa for two families.	KD 1100

YARMOUK

2 storey with 5 bed.	KD 550
----------------------	--------

*We have more villas, floor and apartment in all areas of
Kuwait.*

Fax: 2403260


Office time: 8 am - 9 pm

**Simple, Reliable, Cost-Effective
Personal Facsimile**

Personal Desk-Top Transceiver with Telephone, Public Switch Telephone Network (PSTN), Private Line (PDX), Approx 18sec/14page, Flat Bed by Contact Image Sensor, Thermal.

X-350

ALPHA



KD. 1971- ONLY

MADE IN JAPAN

- Half-tone (16-level gray scale), • Fine Mode, • G3 Compatibility (9600bps), • Copy Function, • Contrast Control Switch (dark, normal, light), • TTL, • Automatic Reception, • Redialing + 100 memories Fax and telephones, • Shorthand Dialing, • On Hook Dialing, • Voice Communication, • Activity Report, • Acoustic Alarm, • AC fault voltage.

Abdul Aziz Saud Al Baktain
Michael & Katriush Bldg. # 2411782/2410419

3rd



ALGHANIM FREIGHT

OPEN

Bowling Tournament

HOLIDAY INN BOWLING ALLEY

MAY 25 JUNE 7th 1990

**OPEN
TO
ANYONE**

Entry Fee
KD. 5/- PABK Member
KD. 7/- Non-Member
Deadline for Entry
May 23, 1990




**SURPRISE
GIFTS on the
Opening Day!**

For More Information Contact:
RICO PINO
Alghanim Freight
Tel: 4745533
4763666

**ROYAL
DAEWOO**

ALBA



**Oh, No!
I am in
trouble now!**

**I should
have called
Alghanim...**

**No one does it better.
The biggest IATA
Freight agent in Kuwait.**

Alghanim
W

Sea-Freight Air
Packing

Customer Service Tel:
474-5533
474-3666

Fahabeh 3823486/5 - Sharq 2400872/3
Marghab 2412385/2410981

SALMIYA, Baghdad Street. Building No. 131. Flat No. 12 (ground floor). One room for a couple or 2 working ladies to share with a family (three members). Rent KD55. Tels. Mr Kumar, 5625811, 5625769, 7 am - 4 pm. (AT2-52702-3)

KUWAIT City, Sharq behind the Firdaus Cinema, House No. 87. Rooms in an Arabic type villa for Indian, Filipino, Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi families only. Contact Francis personally after 2pm, new deluxe furnished 2 storey villa with basement. Suitable for European embassy or executive. Rent KD1,500 (fixed). Tels. 2453883 or 5339174. (AT2-52711-3)

JABRIYA, on the main street of the corner. New villa super deluxe with basement, ground and 1st floor. Suitable for an ambassador or company manager. Tele. Mr Yakub, 2542070, 7-9 pm. (AT2-52655-3)

JABRIYA on the main road GAG new deluxe furnished 2 storey villa with basement. Suitable for European embassy or executive. Rent KD1,500 (fixed). Tels. 2453883 or 5339174. (AT2-52711-3)

BUICK LeSabre 1980, AC,
automatic, white, two doors, in
running condition. KD450 cash.
Tele. 3723471, after 2 pm.
(AT2-52710-3)

PONTIAC Trans-Am 1982, V-8
new engine, automatic, AC,
maroon, stereo with JBL speak-
ers, new original seats, in
excellent shape. Tele. 3920784,
after 3:00 pm.
(AT2-52692-3)

SUZUKI Swift 1.3 GLX 1988,
automatic, in excellent condition,

SERVICES

Tuition

ALL subjects of Indian School
syllabus from I to VII Std, given by
a lady graduate in English, 5 days
a week at home at Jubilee Ab,
Shiyockh. Tel. Muntiaz, 4331418,
6-8 pm.
(AT6-52668-3)

Transport

(AT6-52672-3)
SINGLE room in a two-bedroom flat in Salmiya, main road, near Indian School with telephone facilities. Tele. 3262800 ext. 211, Eric between 8 am - 4.30 pm.
(AT6-52664-3)

KUWAIT City, next to Carlton Hotel, Fahd Al Saleem Street. One spacious carpeted room for a Goan Catholic couple or 2 working girls'/bachelors, to share with a Goan couple. Tele. Damian, Off: 4310108. Res: 2447434.

dealer maintained. KD 17K or
plus KD 400 to owner. Tele. Steve.
3723935 anytime. (AT1-52684-3)

NISSAN Pulsar 1984, owned and
maintained from new in good condi-
tion. KD 600. Tele. Lisa.
2561786/2461117. (AT1-52675-3)

PONTIAC 6000, '82 with many
new parts in excellent condition.
Price negotiable. Tele. 5730064.
(AT2-52694-3)

TOYOTA Crown Royal 1986, 3.0
REQUIRED from Hawaii, behind
REBUXED to Al-Othman
Street, Hawaii, Nuga. Office
hours: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and
from 4:00 - 8:00 pm. Tele.
2655411/4222 (Off. Res. 2647521)
after 8:00 pm. (AT2-52708-3)

REQUIRED for a lady from Far-
waniya to Kuwait City. Office
hours 8 am to 12:30 pm, 4 pm to 7
pm. Tele. 4842558. (AT1-52685-3)

SALWA, Single room with AC and tele. facilities. Tele. Mr Faiz, 5626749. (AT2-52709-3)

For Rent

RUMATHIYA, Area 7, Al Hamra Street, House 32. One floor of villa, 3 bedrooms, 1 hall, 1 saloon, 2 baths, 1 kitchen, AC, Rent KD500 with w/e. Tele. 4636185, 4618016-res, 2432171, 5333466-after 9.30 am. (AT6-52670-3)

DINING table (glass board with 6 chairs (black), study desk, curtains and two single beds. Tel. 5320492. (AT6-52668-3)

Cars

PAJERO, model '83, manual, recently overhauled engine and tested and insured up to May 1991. KD1,200 one. Tele. 3712538, after 2

metallic, sunroof, 70,000 kms in excellent condition. Cash or instalments. Tele. 3920784, after 3.00 pm.
(AT2-52691-3)

**CHEVROLET/Camaro IROC-Z/ '87, AC, automatic, blue, large road, 28,000 miles, fully insured up to 650,000, in excellent condition. KD3360 cash. Tele. Mr Derek, 5651490, 8 am - 5 pm.
(AT2-52702-3)**

Miscellaneous

Heleyn...
Maiana Hawaii, behind the Ruffin...
Hotel to Stock Exchange...
8.45 am to 12.30 pm. Tele...
Mathew 5657380 2 - 10 pm.
(AT1-52685-3)

PETS

LOST female Siamese cat, Jan...
10th, 1989 in Jabryia. The cat's...
name is Sophie. Tele. 4836021.
(AT1-52662-2)

(AT6-52646-3) SALWA, Area 12, near Messilah Beach Hotel. Ground floor of a large deluxe villa, huge living room 13m x 7 m, 4 bedrooms with closets, 3 large bathrooms, beautiful garden in and outside. Rent KD520. Tel. 2489617-8, 4743485, 3620112. Ask for Salma or Naser.

(AT6-52680-6) PAJERO, model '82, manual green, in perfect condition. KD700. Tel. 4882147.

(AT6-52663-3) BMW 735, 1984, AC, automatic, many special options, 96,000 kms. in very good condition. KD4350. Tel. 5719145, evenings.

(AT2-52690-3) (AT2-52703-3)

FAMILY leaving. Sofa Ikea shelves, dining table, chairs bed 2x2, garden furniture, billiard table, fridge, washing machine, dryer, dishwasher, oven, 2 AC's and others. Surra Area, 2 Street 13, House 32, from 4 - 8.

(AT6 52676-3)

CONTENTS of 3 bedroom flat, dining table/6 chairs display, cabinet ; sofa set, bedroom fur-

REQUIRED

An advertising establishment requires:

Advertisement technicians for shops and companies, electrician/painter/blacksmith.

Must have transferable residence

484-6009

Call 2459186/2459185

plants, toys. Tel. 3719522.
(AT-6-52856-3)

GENERAL air-conditioners - two: 25000, one 18000 BTU. European bed set, dining table, bunkers beds. American wall unit, 4 pieces sofa set, carpets. All are in very good condition at reasonable prices. Tel. 4749616.
(AT-2-52700-3)

WROUGHT iron patio set with umbrella, table and spring rockers KD130, microwave, plants and pets in Salwa. Tel. 5657865.
(AT-8-52634-3)

REPAIRS required: Sit Car, car, car. Filipino. Tel. 5726313; 5712663.
(AT-1-52664-4)

LIVE in maid required for a European family. Must be experienced with small children and good command of English is a must. Tel. 5613758 from 3 — 5 pm.
(AT-1-52878-3)

WANTED

BUYING second-hand books, portable radios and revenue

شركة النقيب وخطار
AI-Naqeeb & Khattar Co. W.L.L.

Airfreight your personal effects
...ECONOMICALLY

 **484-6009** 

SPACIOUS two-bedroom flat in excellent location in Shaab, with large sitting room, two bathrooms. Complete quality furniture and household items for sale. KD.1,200. Rent KD190. Tel. 2428610/2647486. (ATG-52667-3)

STAMPS, USED AND UNUSED, for sale. Tel. 3727491. (ATG-52649-9)

AN old-type Toyota Land cruiser SWB in good working condition. 1981 or later model will be considered. Tele. 4818669; (AT-1-52683-3)

REVENGE



UNITRON COMPUTERS

LEGAL agent for UNITRON INC. computers in KUWAIT
OFFERS a turn-key solution for:

- XT/AT/386 **ORIGINAL** UNITRON COMPUTERS
- PRINTERS, ACCESSORIES, OFFICE SUPPLIES
- ACCOUNTING, INVENTORY customized packages
- SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENTS

ALSO WE OFFER TRAINING FOR:

- DOS - UNIX - LOTUS 123 - WORD PROCESSING
- DBASEIII + - **BASIC - COBOL ETC.**.....

Contact: Al-Zaman Al-Arabi Co. W.L.L.
TEL: 2453084/2453083 (FAX)

REVENGE
MORE POWERFUL THAN LOVE

شبكة الفيديو
THE VIDEO CLUB

SALMIAH. TEL. 5724372 • SALHIYA COMPLEX. TEL. 2432809
SAFEWAY FARWANIYA. TEL. 4341166 • PINTAS TOWERS. TEL. 3710218

ARAB TIMES

A second branch of CLEOPATRA shop in Holiday Inn Hotel is now in Kuwait International Hotel

Aladdin Antiques Offers souvenir

- ★ Old gramophone.
- ★ Beautiful art work.
- ★ Handicraft work.
- ★ Old compass.
- ★ Old silver vase.
- ★ Pearl work.
- ★ Imitation jewellery.

AND MANY MORE ITEMS



**For enquiries call
2530000 ext 8064**


CLASSIFIEDS COUPON

2 insertions KD 4. Three insertions KD5

Conditions:

1. Advertisements may be mailed in only on this coupon, or preferably, completed at the Arab Times office between 8.30 a.m. — 1 p.m. and 4.30 — 6 p.m.
2. To complete the coupon, follow the sequence of the information given in above printed advertisements, for desired section heading. All advertisements will be printed according to Arab Times format and are subject to editing.
3. Advertisements must not exceed 25 words including name and telephone number.

Dear Ladies
For your body fitness and
elegance and to keep your beauty



AMWAJ
HEALTH INSTITUTE
Provides the latest body fitness
equipments.
Monthly membership available.
Salmiya — Al Marzouk Pearl Complex
Ground floor Tel. 5716005

cancellations will be made after publication.

5. Advertisements of personal nature involving business transactions will not be accepted, nor any matrimonial advertisements.

6. The Arab Times is not responsible for postal delays.

Section heading

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Sender's Name

Address

.....

Telephone

.....

.....

Coupons and payment must be mailed to:
ARAB TIMES CLASSIFIEDS
P.O. BOX: 2270
13023 SAFAT KUWAIT.

Lancashire edge past Derbyshire

LONDON, May 19, (Reuters): Veteran skipper David Hughes spun Lancashire to victory by 60 runs over Derbyshire yesterday in his country's first championship win of the English cricket season.

Hughes, who turned 43 this month, sliced through the lower-order batting to capture four for 25 from 24 overs, which included 12 maidens.

Derbyshire, nine down in the final over, still had hopes of snatching a draw but Phillip DeFreitas clinched victory by bowling Geoff Miller with the second ball.

Lancashire had declared in the morning session at 172 for three, leaving Derbyshire to get 309 for victory.

Openers Kim Barnett (33) and John Morris (52) gave Derbyshire a flying start with 40 off the first seven overs.

But the batting soon crumbled against the spin trio of Hughes, Mike Atherton and Dexter Finn and the home side eventually succumbed to 248.

In the only other match lasting into yesterday's fourth day, Warwickshire went to the top of the table when they completed an innings and 30 run win over Northamptonshire in just 35 minutes.

Resuming at 192 for seven, Northamptonshire lost their last three wickets for 32 runs.

Results
At Northampton: Warwickshire beat Northamptonshire by an innings and 30 runs. Warwickshire 473 for nine declared in 148.5 overs, Northamptonshire 219 in 92.1 overs and 224 (T. Munton four for 44, D. Reave three for 26), Warwickshire 23 points, Northamptonshire four.

At Derby: Lancashire beat Derbyshire by 60 runs. Lancashire 445 for five declared in 176.3 overs and 172 for five declared (N. Fairbrother 65 not out, M. Atherton 51), Derbyshire 309 in 119.3 overs and 248 (P. Bowler 54, J. Morris 52, D. Hughes four for 25), Lancashire 21 points, Derbyshire three.

Other matches (final day of three-day games):
At Cambridge: Essex beat Cambridge University by 120 runs. Essex 319 for five declared and 155 for two declared (A. Seymour 89, B. Hardie 36 not out), Cambridge University 201 and 153 (M. Lowry 69, M. Allott five for 43).

At Oxford: Match drawn. Oxford University 322 for eight declared and 287 for six declared (M. Crawley 47, I. Henderson 44), Surrey 227 for three declared and 305 for five (D. Ward 181, D. Bicknell 65).

Standings

English County Championship cricket table after yesterday's matches (batting bonus points, total points):

Warwickshire	2	2	0	0	6	46
Hampshire	2	1	0	0	3	45
Lancashire	1	0	3	0	10	34
Northampton	1	2	0	0	10	34
Leicestershire	1	1	1	0	8	34
Derbyshire	1	1	1	0	7	29
Nottingham	1	1	1	0	7	29
Somerset	1	1	0	1	8	29
Glamorgan	1	1	0	1	6	29
Worcestershire	1	1	0	1	7	28
Gloucestershire	1	1	0	1	6	28
Kent	1	1	0	2	8	28
Sussex	1	1	0	2	8	27
Essex	0	0	2	3	3	11
Cheshire	0	0	1	7	7	11
Surrey	0	0	1	7	7	11
Yorkshire	2	0	2	0	2	4

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

LAST month's Marlboro Safari Rally more than lived up to its 'rough and tough' image and will be remembered as one of the most difficult and mud-ravaged events in 38 years of rallying in Kenya.

'Mud, mud, glorious mud,' read a headline in a local newspaper second day into the rally on which only 25 out of 59 entrants left the starting point at the Kenyan International Communications Centre in Nairobi.

Mudholes claimed some famous victims, the first being Markku Alen, a Finnish winner of 16 world championship rallies, who was the first to start the Safari. Dozens followed, and got bogged down in mud, among them the Italians in their super Lancias, Fiorio and Miki Biondi, a two-time winner of the Safari Rally.

As more and more cars got stuck in the mud indignation began spreading among some frustrated drivers, support teams, and commentators. When the elements brought no response, they turned their wrath toward a



Juha Kankkunen: 2nd in the Safari Rally.

Greatbatch hits 85 off 81 balls

Kiwis beat Somerset

TAUNTON, England, May 19, (Reuters): Mark Greatbatch destroyed the Somerset bowling yesterday with a masterful 85 as New Zealand won their three-day cricket match by five wickets with only three balls to spare.

Peter Roebuck had earlier declared the Somerset innings closed at 256 for four, setting New Zealand a challenging target of 322 from 65 overs.

After openers Jeff Crowe and first-innings century maker Trevor Franklin were out for 30 apiece the powerful New Zealand middle order moved smoothly into action.

Andrew Jones (53) confirmed his return to form with a second half-century in the match then acting captain Martin Crowe, whose enterprising declaration on Thursday had breathed fresh life into match, stroked an elegant 64.

But New Zealand still seemed to be running out of



Mark Greatbatch

overs before Greatbatch took matters into his own hands.

The burly left-hander, who spent a season with Somerset seconds as a youth, smacked two sixes, including one out of

the ground into an adjacent river, and plundered six fours in his 81-ball innings.

Greatbatch added 111 with Ken Rutherford for the fifth wicket before he was bowled aiming another huge hit. Rutherford, who hit the winning boundary, finished with 46 not out.

Somerset's second innings revolved around their prolific South African opening batsman Jimmy Cook.

Cook took his season's first-class tally to 567 with an immaculate unbeaten 117, his fourth century of the summer to all cricket.

He stroked 17 boundaries in his 217-ball stay and now has a possible six innings to complete the rare feat of 1,000 runs before the end of May.

Scoreboard
SOMERSET first innings 343 for six declared (C. Tavaré 156, R. Harden 104, M. Snedden four for 78). NEW ZEALAND first innings 278 for three declared (T. Franklin 103, A.

Jones 57 not out, M. Crowe 55 not out).

SOMERSET second innings (over-

night 113 for three):

J. Cook not out 117

P. Roebuck lbw b Snedden 6

J. Hardy c Parore b Miltmow 5

A. Hayhurst run out 2

N. Burns c J. Crowe b Priest 59

G. Rose not out 59

Extras (lb-8 nb-2) 8

Total (for four wickets, declared) 256

Fall of wickets: 1-22 2-34 3-48 4-148

Bowling: Miltmow 8-1-35-1, Sned-

den 18-3-49-1, Rutherford 10-1-62-0,

Priest 28-3-11-80-1, Jones 4-0-8-0, M.

Crowe 5-1-16-0

NEW ZEALAND second innings

J. Crowe c Hardy b Hallett 30

T. Franklin lbw b Hallett 30

A. Jones c Tavaré b Roebuck 53

M. Crowe b Jones 64

M. Greatbatch b Rose 85

K. Rutherford not out 46

S. Thomson not out 4

Extras (lb-4 w-1 nb-1) 6

Total (for two wickets) 322

Fall of wickets: 1-57 2-64 3-174 4-

201 5-312

Bowling: Jones 8-1-28-1, Rose 11-

0-74-1, Hayhurst 13-1-58-0, Swallow

15-0-68-0, Hallett 11-3-0-51-2,

Roebuck 6-0-35-1

Result: New Zealand won by two wickets.

Oilers thrash Bruins



Oilers' Mark Lamb (left) and Kurri celebrate the latter's

10th of this year's playoffs, at 7:27 during a power play.

BOSTON, May 19, (Reuters): Jari Kurri scored three goals and added two assists to lead the Edmonton Oilers to a 7-2 rout of the Boston Bruins yesterday that gave the visitors a commanding two games to none lead in the best-of-seven series for the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup.

The series moves to Edmonton for Games tomorrow and Tuesday. The Oilers won the first game of the series 3-2 in a triple overtime match that lasted five hours 32 minutes.

Game two held no such drama as the Oilers showed their scoring power, led by Kurri. The Finn, who entered the game led with former teammate Wayne Gretzky for most career playoff goals, now has sole possession of the record with 92 playoff goals.

Adam Graves opened the scoring for the Oilers at 8:38 with a 55-foot screen shot on which Boston goalie Andy Moog made no move. Kurri then made it 2-0 at 10:53, neatly deflecting a pass from his compatriot Esa Tikkanen during a power play.

In the final minute of the first period, Boston captain Raymond Bourque beat Edmonton goalie Bill Ranford with a 50-foot slap shot to his glove side.

In the second period the Oilers outscored Boston 4-1, but not before the Bruins' Greg Hawgood tied the score at 2-2 with a power play slap shot at 2:56.

Edmonton responded with four unanswered goals. Kurri scored at 4:21 with a 40-foot slap shot through Moog's legs. Boston coach Mike Milbury then inserted Reggie Lemelin in place of Moog, who faced four shots and allowed three goals.

The chase failed to slow the Oilers down. Craig Simpson, assisted by Kurri, scored at 15:28 and Tikkanen, also assisted by Kurri, at 17:10. Joe Murphy made it 6-2 Edmonton at 19:12.

Kurri completed his hat trick with his third goal, and 10th of this year's playoffs, at 7:27 during a power play.

Ivan to take part in Goodwill Games

INDIANAPOLIS, May 19, (Reuters): The Romanian athletics Federation will send a six-member squad, including star distance runner Paul Ivan, to this summer's Goodwill Games in Seattle, the Athletics Congress announced yesterday.

Ivan, the Olympic 1,500-metre champion and silver medalist at 3,000 metres, head the five-woman, one-man Romanian athletics contingent that will compete at the July 20-August 5 Goodwill Games.

Ivan, who turns 27 on the opening day of the Games, set the world record in the women's mile who she clocked four minutes 15.61 seconds at a meeting in Nice last year.

Summer Squall bleeds

BALTIMORE, May 19, (Reuters): Summer Squall, the second favourite for today's pre-race stakes, shed slightly from the nostrils after a gallop yesterday morning, his trainer said.

Ned Howard, trainer of the colt who is the 2-1 second choice to win the middle leg of the US triple crown, said: "He just had a little trickle that lasted four or five minutes. He has done it before in the mornings after cooling out."

Howard said that Summer Squall, the Kentucky Derby favourite who finished second to Unbridled, last bled just before the Blue Grass Stakes on April 14th. Summer Squall won that race in which Unbridled came third.

Unbridled was listed as a slight 7-5 favourite to win today's 1-3/16-mile test for three-year-old thoroughbreds.

Summer Squall was to be given lasix, a drug which proponents believe stops or prevents bleeding from the horse's lungs by removing fluid.

Australians, Pakistanis meet again

LOS ANGELES, May 19, (AP): The national cricket

teams of World Cup holder Australia and Pakistan were to meet today at the Los Angeles Coliseum in the second of their one-day limited over international exhibition series in the United States.

The teams played an exhibition last week at Downing Stadium in New York, with Australia winning by seven runs.

The match at the Los Angeles Coliseum was scheduled to start at 4 pm, PDT (2300 GMT).

Australia are the current World Cup champions, but Pakistan won the Australasia Cup championship in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Recently Pakistan beat Australia by 36 runs in the final match on May 4.

The captain of the Australian team is David Boon. Other top players in the Australian team are Dean Jones, Steve Waugh, Merv Hughes and Terry Alderman. The captain of the Pakistan team is Imran Khan. Other top players for the Pakistan team are Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram and Salim Malik.

At stake in the two-match exhibition in this country is a trophy known as the North American Cup. A spokesman for the Pricewaterhouse, which is promoting the match, said an annual international cricket series is being planned for the future.

The Australian and Pakistan teams return home tomorrow.



Bernard Jourdain's car rams into the guard wall. (Reuters wirephoto)

Unser loses engine

INDIANAPOLIS, May 19, (UPI): Al Unser Jr.'s qualifying

engine burned out yesterday, weakening his chances to overtake defending champion Emerson Fittipaldi for the Indianapolis 500 pole when the time trials resume.

Rain could postpone qualifying from this weekend until the next dry day at Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Forecasts predicted a 70 per cent chance of rain today and a 30 per cent chance of showers tomorrow.

In the final full practice session before the May 27 race, Bernard Jourdain's Indy hopes ended yesterday after two crashes ruined his primary and backup cars.

Jourdain, last year's Indy co-Rookie of the Year, had been first in line to qualify when time trials resumed.

Fittipaldi won the provincial pole last Sunday after qualifying at a record 225.301 mph (362.586 kph). Fifteen drivers qualified in a rain-shortened session, leaving 18 vacancies in the lineup. Unser, who set a practice-lap record of 228.502 mph (367.730 kph) last week leads 13 drivers waiting for



Jourdain grimaces while trapped in his car. (Reuters wirephoto)

their chance to earn the inside front row starting spot.

Unser reached 224.955 mph (362.029 kph) yesterday in his Lola-Chevrolet using his reserve race motor. Unser's qualifying engine, which reached a record 228.502 mph (367.730 kph) in practice last week, failed earlier in the day.

Jourdain's main car was severely damaged when it spun, hit the outer wall of turn four and then slammed head-on into the inner wall near the entrance to pit row before skidding to a stop on the barrier separating the front straightaway from the pit lane. Jourdain was awake and alert and in good condition at Methodist Hospital but his car was extensively damaged.

Crenshaw shares lead

FORT WORTH, Texas, May 19, (Reuters): Beo Crenshaw

overcame an unusual two-stroke penalty yesterday to post a five-under-par 65 and gain a share of the second-round lead in the \$1 million Colonial golf tournament.

Crenshaw finished 36 holes with a six-under-par 134 total to tie first-round leader Russ Cochran, who added a 69 to his opening 65.

Billy Mayfair, a former US amateur champion, was alone at five-under-par 135 on the Colonial Country Club course that played to its usual toughness.

Crenshaw had his trouble at the 12th hole.

After a superb drive, Crenshaw said his ball came to rest on what appeared to be a nice piece of turf in the middle of the fairway. He addressed the ball and soled the club. It was then the ball rolled "about three inches

Riley debates leaving Lakers

INGLEWOOD, California,

May 19, (AP): Should he stay or should he go? That's what Los Angeles Lakers coach Pat Riley says he will try to decide this summer.

Riley, who has two years remaining on his contract, indicated that he's unsure about his future career plans.

"I can't honestly say what I'm going to do. That's all I don't know," Riley told reporters Thursday, two days after the Lakers were eliminated from the playoffs by the Phoenix Suns.

"I have to sit down, all of us do, and think what's in the best interest of the team. I love coaching. But I can't empathically say right now what my decision (will be)."

Riley said his comments were not meant as a play going into talks with Lakers owner Jerry Buss, who has promised to renegotiate the coach's contract.

Top drivers get a taste of adventure in tough Kenya Safari Rally



Waldegard (left) won the rally while Mikael Ericsson finished third.



much more vulnerable target — Mike Doughty of the Safari Rally Company who personally planned the route.

Doughty was a co-driver to Shekhar Mehta on four out of the five Safari rallies Mehta won in the early 1980s, setting a record yet to be beaten.

Doughty, they charged, is responsible for all this mess, he chose the route that was far too tough. Above all, they claimed, the first leg, a painfully long and treacherous route of more than a 1,000 km to the Talia Hills and back to Nairobi, was too difficult to begin the rally with. Indeed, it eliminated from the race more than half of participants. Said the critics, with two short legs so that the majority of cars, and especially the private entries, could have a fairer chance to make it in the final stages.

An exasperated Jim Heather-Hayes, a white Kenyan driving a Subaru Legacy, spun fire after a particularly trying section to Eldoret.

"Doughty should be tied to a dustbin lid and dragged around the Olenguruone section" he

fumed. Heather-Hayes did finish not only the sector, but the entire race, in the sixth place — oo mean feat for a local driver.

Doughty found a powerful ally in this year's winner Bjorn Waldegard. The driver has more than just a name in common with his countryman Bjorn Borg who dominated the world tennis through much of the 1980s.

Indeed, the unruffled Swede is for the rallies what Borg was for tennis. He poured cold water on Heather-Hayes' remarks by commenting: "This sector (to Eldoret) has been much easier than I expected. I feel good."

Doughty was forced to occasionally change the route because some sections were impassable.

As the clouds gathered over his head, a rumour spread that the Marlboro Safari Rally might be scratched series. Ambivalent remarks from Fisa (International Federation of Motor-sport) officials who described the rally as "good but tough," were not reassuring.

Interests

However, there was a consensus that there was nothing to be gained from such a move and that only those who indulge in rally politics and have vested interests could condone it. Whether there was any truth in the rumour or not Bjorn Waldegard, who won the Safari Rally for the fourth time, found it necessary to throw his weight behind the event. At a gala dinner at which he was crowned, Waldegard declared that if the Safari Rally is taken off the list of the world championship series he would immediately resign.

The future of the Safari Rally now looks assured. If Fisa had any doubts they were quickly put to rest and there is no shortage of rally proponents.

If anyone relishes the Safari Rally it is the top international

drivers. They simply enjoy doing their job in an exotic environment. The Safari Rally gives them a taste of adventure, complete with its hardships, reminiscent of the one that early European explorers must have experienced. Like ordinary tourists they speak enthusiastically about lions, elephants and giraffes. Mudholes can be distressing but with time they will fade out from memory. But where else can you have a lion nonchalantly stretch on the road in front of your car as has happened to Vic Preston Jr, a Kenyan driver. He had to sing to make it move.

Most top drivers have spent months in Kenya practising and have developed a deep affection for the country. Africa is beckoning and they love it.

Raved Waldegard: "Who can

forget the first time you are sitting after a good dinner in the light of a blazing log fire and hear a lion 'coughing' just the other side of the fence. Or watching the sunrise over Mount Kilimanjaro with a herd of elephants crossing the road in front of you." The exotic fauna and flora aside, the Safari Rally does bring out the best in many drivers.

Coveted
While the harsh challenge of it has turned some into heroes, the startling beauty of Kenyan landscape has shown others as incurable romantics.

But the rally is coveted by more than just the drivers.

Its entertainment value notwithstanding, some see it only as a lucrative business venture. The event is a formidable foreign

exchange earner. Kenya's hotels, lodges, bandicraft and jewellery shops have been cashing in on an upsurge of foreign visitors at the beginning of the rainy season when tourists are few and far between. The works teams and supporting crews spend months and millions of Kenyan shillings in the East African country each year.

Safari Rally chairman Nicholas Ng'ang estimated that Kenya earned hundreds of millions of shillings from the rally this year. The government also ploughed some funds into the event adding to \$1 million that Marlboro's parent company Philip Morris sank into the sponsorship of the event.

The rally enthusiasm in the country was at such a pitch that volunteers poured in to give a hand and many services were

provided free by local companies. The rally has mobilised different sections of the multiracial community — army, private pilots, police, the national airline, housewives, the Flying Doctor Service.

There was no shortage of fans even in the remotest of areas and many helped to push the cars out of mud. But an event of that magnitude could not be trouble-free. Rally driver Philip Kyriazy was robbed when his Toyota Corolla got stuck in mud at Mucharage village. A group of men who offered to help, slightly injured him when he tried to confront them, before disappearing into the bush with the booty.

In another incident a 41-year-old woman leapt into the path of a speeding rally chase car on its way to Eldoret in a bid to commit suicide. She was saved by a bystander.

Despite such incidents there were few complaints from the citizenry. One exception were clergymen some of whom lost their flock on Good Friday. The rally is organised to coincide with Easter holidays and the carnival like atmosphere that develops along the village roads where the

rally cars are scheduled to pass proved too tempting for some of the faithful.

Interference
Canon Gedion Ireri, the Provost of St Paul's Cathedral in Embu appealed to the Kenyan government to change the timing of the rally "to avoid interference with Christian religious festivities during the Easter season."

Wherever on the calendar it is this rally should certainly stay in Kenya and on the world championship list. Not only because it is fun for spectators, it makes a quick buck for the hoteliers and brings thrill to the drivers. But because it is a kind of event that has brought together people that would have otherwise probably never met; because it has merged the highbush from a Western multinational with the stunning beauty of the Kenyan landscape, the hardships experienced by drivers with volunteer workers' enthusiasm, and because drivers, commentators and spectators all vowed to return.

Rather than think how to downgrade the Safari Rally those concerned should seek to organise more of these events.

Canon Gedion Ireri, the Provost of St Paul's Cathedral in Embu appealed to the Kenyan government to change the timing of the rally "to avoid interference with Christian religious festivities during

